

THE REFORMER,

OR, AN

INFALLIBLE REMEDY

TO PREVENT PAUPERISM & PERIODICAL RETURNS
OF

F A M I N E.

WITH OTHER SALUTARY MEASURES FOR THE SUPPORT OF
THE DESTITUTE POOR, THE ENFORCEMENT OF
CLEANLINESS, SUPPRESSION OF USURY,
AND ESTABLISHING THE FUTILITY
OF THE PLAN OF

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, ESQ.,

(Late Member of Parliament for Ennis,)

TO MITIGATE ANY OF THOSE GRIEVANCES IN IRELAND.

*Also, several amendments, and most important hints to Landlords
and to the Government, which lay open at one view the evils
of the Irish nation, and their remedies, never treated
of in any former publication whatsoever.*

Fifth Edition,

*Containing Three appropriate Engravings, and several additional pages of
very useful and important matter.*

BY JAMES CONNERY.

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows, and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat;
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures. — *Julius Cæsar, Act iv. Scene 3.*

LIMERICK:

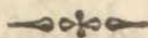
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DEDICATION.



TO

ALL GOOD CHRISTIANS

AND

LOYAL SUBJECTS,

WHO HAVE EYES TO SEE, OR EARS TO HEAR,

THIS LITTLE TREATISE

IS INSCRIBED,

HOPING IT MAY BE RECEIVED AS WELL AS IT IS MEANT,

By their devoted Servant,

And Well-wisher,

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

The importance of the subject of the following observations, which involves so many questions relative to our jurisprudence, and the internal economy of Ireland, must apologize for the unreserved manner in which the author has delivered his sentiments, particularly with regard to Landlords, Farmers, and Labourers.—In every part of this Work, his object has been to combat abuses, too prevalent in this distressed country, and not to attack men.—If in any instance individuals have made themselves so conspicuous by their conduct, as to induce them to think they are alluded to, he disclaims any idea of giving personal offence. But he could not do adequate justice to the statement he submits to the public, without advertng to facts that are generally notorious to every person acquainted with the manners and customs of Ireland.—He hopes, however, that any defects or inaccuracies which may be obvious to the discerning critic, are in some measure atoned for, by that practical utility which has been his constant aim, and of which, he ventures to flatter himself, his observations are not wholly devoid.—Relating only matters of fact, without passion or partiality.

PREFACE.

As it has been acknowledged by every person acquainted with the state of Ireland, and particularly by the Committee of the Honourable House of Commons, set apart to deliberate thereon, that the lower classes of the Irish Community are in a deplorable state of wretchedness, and that immediate steps should be taken to alleviate their suffering, but the best advocates for the cause of the country are at a loss to know the radical remedy, from the mazes of her destinies and interwoven interests, so may I be allowed at the risk of censure, to offer to the public a series of Resolutions passed at a Meeting of the Labourers, Artizans, and Farmers of the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride, and county of Waterford, in February 1831, forwarded by me to HENRY VILLIERS STUART, Esq. for his approbation, previous to their being sent in form of petition, to be presented by him in the House of Commons, (whose Letters on the subject may be seen in the following pages,) and a similar one sent to the EARL OF MOUNTCASHEL, for presentation in the House of Peers.

Those Resolutions contain stubborn facts, which I aver in the teeth of envy, and to the deafear of party, as many auspicious enactments for the intended good of this Country, such as the Subletting Act, &c. are no sooner born than die, and are either speedily rescinded, or become a dead letter on the Statute Book, and in order to give society an opportunity of judging the efficiency of this plan, and, if advisable, to imitate the proceedings of this Barony, who have given a model and a novel one too; whose Farmers have charitably condescended to make unavoidable concessions, so that nothing but the sanction of the Legislature is necessary to make it universal.

Though I have had upwards of twenty years' experience, as a practical Farmer, the subject under review should be taken up long since by a more able hand, to pourtray it to the Legislature; but it is the prevailing propensity of man, to abstain from bringing obloquy on himself, as long as things are going on right with him, and is consequently blind or indifferent to the wants of others; add to this the certainty of his being compelled thereby, to make a sacrifice more or less for the public welfare; and as the time has arrived when something must be done, and attempts are being made to pass Poor Laws, which will prove the cure worse than the disease, I think it incumbent on me to come forward and proclaim the inefficiency of the measure contemplated, and thereby prevent procrastination, (the thief of time!) as the wants of the Country admit of no delay, but immediate relief.

Mr. O'BRIEN, who had written a Pamphlet in January 1830, introductory of Poor Laws in this Country, had succeeded so far as to obtain the first reading of his Bill, who acknowledged

to have gleaned most important information relative to the *state of Ireland* from a Roman Catholic Prelate, and several Members of the Aristocracy, who, from the circles in which they move, cannot but be quite foreign to their Province, as any thing of the kind, they have only from hearsay or upon trust; but a person must needs be an ocular evidence, before his assertions can be admitted.

I give all those Gentlemen credit for their zeal, to render their Country prosperous, and Mr. O'BRIEN in particular, for his laudable work, which is the emanation of a good head and heart, and proves his solicitude for the poor, which breathes the spirit of sympathy and philanthropy, who, I am confident, would adopt any other course better calculated than his own, if convinced of it.

It is the impression of many influential men in and out of Parliament, that any good done for Ireland, should come through the Agency of the Higher Classes. I am willing to allow they ought to make remissions, but I will maintain, that if Landlords forgive the Farmers half the Rents, generally speaking, they will be as deaf as ever to the calls of the workmen.

The introduction of compulsory assessment for the support of the poor in Ireland, would be productive of more harm than good, whereas it would be an encouragement to sloth and indolence; witness the overwhelming sum of from 8 to 9 millions sterling, annually paid in England and Wales to support Charitable Institutions.

If the people of Ireland were in a prosperous condition, it would enable them to give to the poor and lend to the Lord. Compulsion is not lending to the Lord, neither is it charity; a legal provision for the poor would be putting a tax upon free-will, and interfering with the liberty of the soul; above all things man should be left to the dictates of his own conscience as far as regards Religion and Charity.

This being the only petition to Parliament before or since the Union, by the lower or middling classes praying for any relief, in which the Clergy were not implicated or consulted, which caused them to send out some fanatics to ascertain the nature of the Resolutions adopted, which were found not in accordance with their views, and consequently made it a theme of reprobation at the public place of Worship, and exhorted every person concerned therein, to erase his name from the petition; this was extending spiritual dominion too far, but the audience who knew me from the cradle, and to have often proved the poor man's benefactor and intercessor, no sojourner, be his mission ever so authentic, could shake their fidelity towards me.

It was not my intention to put this work to press, nor give it any more publicity than what it might get within the walls of St. Stephen's, but as the clergy are so averse to such a paramount improvement to the condition of the people, least they may succeed in preventing other districts who may be inclined to engage in the like pursuit, indeed, the privation

and misery of the poor are very familiar to them, and ought to have taken an active part in mitigating this mass of human misery long since, but their forbearance is already accounted for—human nature predominates.

I was actuated by no interested motive whatsoever, but the good of my fellow-countrymen, and to impress on them, that by paying a Shilling, they would save Ten Shillings, or in other words, to make some concessions to avert the Poor Laws and the manifold evils attendant on them.

Should this petition be adjourned to a future day like the Reform Question, it must as a matter of necessity be passed into a Law in the end.

I may be permitted to state, that I had a good assistance in BARRY DREW, Esq. of *Flower-hill*, than whom no person could be more zealous in the furtherance of a cause, which would render incalculable benefit to his country, who, when I sent him the Petition for his signature, wrote me a Letter which I appended thereto, (a copy of which I have added to this Work,) who from his knowledge as a High Constable of this barony together with being a resident gentleman of great research, could not fail of knowing the general feeling of the people, and also whatever would be most conducive to their happiness.

From the importance of the question of Poors' Law to Ireland, it is daily becoming a matter of universal interest, and considered of greater magnitude than Parliamentary Reform itself, and is discussed at every meeting; nay, two persons cannot meet without holding an argument on the subject, one man will urge that nothing but the English Form of Relief for the Poor will keep the frame of society together in this country, while the other deprecates the idea in toto, without recommending any substitute, but to let the people live or die.

Such is not the case with me, though I have proved that compulsory relief is neither desirable nor admissible here, apprehending how the system would be abused, yet I have pointed out a safe, simple, and practicable plan to satisfy all parties, having always considered prevention to be the best cure, and that by giving to workmen their cottages in tenantable order, and the Potato Gardens for the value, and allowing them fair wages, the Irish Peasantry would cease to be paupers, and I defy human ingenuity, even with all the advantages of an IRISH PARLIAMENT, to devise a more salutary scheme for the purpose. I have lately sent LORD CARBERY a copy of this publication, and his Lordship was pleased to say in his Letter to me, that "the statements were very fairly made, and the suggestions deserving of every attention."

Ballyduff, near Lismore, January, 1832.

CONTENTS.

| CHAPTER. | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| 1.— <i>Comprising Resolutions, with a Petition grounded thereon, and Letters relative thereto,</i> | 9 |
| 2.— <i>Regulations for Cities and Towns Corporate, proving the advantages of the Trucking System.</i> | 18 |
| 3.— <i>Containing Remarks for and against Mr. O'Brien's plan forwarded to Henry Villiers Stuart, Esq. and the Earl of Mount-Cashel.</i> | 28 |
| 4.— <i>Giving most Important hints to Landlords, and to the Government.</i> | 45 |
| <i>The Rev. Horatio Townsend's Letters.</i> | 59 |
| <i>Henry Braddie, Esq's. do.</i> | 60 |
| <i>Lord Viscount Kingsborough's do.</i> | ib. |
| <i>David Reid, Esq's. do.</i> | 61 |
| <i>Samuel Evans, Esq's. do.</i> | ib. |

ERRATUM.

For "draw," read "awe," first line, Page 41.

REFORMER, &c.

CHAP. I.

Containing Résolutions and a Petition to the Imperial Parliament, to ameliorate the condition of the Labourers and Artizans connected with Agriculture or Husbandry of the Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride, in the County of Waterford, for redress of grievances affecting them, which may be beneficially extended to all Ireland, and important letters connected therewith.

*No gloss or colouring will avail,
But truth and justice here prevail.*

That the enormous rent charged by the farmer for the cottage, varying from £2 to £3, and for the garden, varying from £6 to £8 per acre, statute measure, is more than the workman can keep pace with, from the low rate of wages, as will appear hereafter, and is consequently the source of all the ills the Irish peasant is heir to; and moreover, those gardens not being tilled in due season, nor manured in a husbandlike manner, together with a total neglect to the repairs of their mansions, notwithstanding the extraordinary value in useful labour given in exchange for them, and as gardens and houses differ in quality, as well as any other property—see the annexed scale, viz.:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| A Cottage and Kitchen Garden, with a stone or brick chimney, having two apartments, say a Kitchen and Bed-room, divided by a wall or partition, plaistered inside and rough-casted outside, having two Glass windows at least 2 feet high by 1½ broad, to open occasionally by hinges or pivot for ventilation, may be fairly charged by the year, | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| All other Houses without a chimney, or deficient in any of the above requisites so essential to the comforts of the tenant, in order to rouse the farmer to a sense of his duty..... | 1 | 0 | 0 |

STUBBLE GARDENS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st. Class—One acre of statute with 80 loads or butts of good manure (dung)..... | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 2d. Class—One Acre with top dressing of lime and earth, turf-mould, marl or sea sand, and 40 butts of dung..... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 3d. Class—One acre with top dressing of lime and earth, turf-mould, &c. with no dung..... | 2 | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 4th. Class.—One acre manured by the workman, of his own produce..... | } £ s. d. |
| | } 0 0 0 |
| 5th. Class—One acre drill culture, with 60 butts of dung, requiring less manure, and more horse labour than the broad-cast system..... | } 4 0 0 |

And the rent the farmer pays for the land in proportion to quality, to be added to all those prices; or, if a gentleman's demesne or farm, he may have at low, or no rent, to be rated as high as a farmer could pay for it.

BAWN OR LEA GARDENS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1st. Class—One acre of fat or rich ground requiring no manure..... | } 5 0 0 |
| 2d. Class—One acre of inferior quality with 50 butts of dung or a fair substitute of lime and earth, turf-mould, marl, or sea sand in top-dressing..... | } 4 0 0 |
| 3d. Class—One acre of poor dry quality, with 60 butts of dung or a fair substitute of the above composts..... | } 3 0 0 |

Also the rent as before to be added to those two last qualities, say Nos. 2 & 3.

N. B. Those composts are more beneficial to the succeeding Crops than the Potato.

That any ground not three years laid out, ought to be ranked as stubble.

That it may be necessary to observe, 40 loads of sea weed are equal to 80 loads of dung, for the information of persons residing in districts contiguous to the sea.

That the bawn or lea ground should be ploughed in a husbandlike manner, on or before the first of April, as the turf or skin requires time to rot, so essential to vegetation, and also impossible to plough land with any power in a dry season, when it waxes late, and the manure to be out thereon before the 15th of May.

That the stubble gardens should be ploughed in like manner on or before the 15th of May, and the manure be out thereon before the first of June, or the farmer to forfeit half the rent.

That it should be compulsory on the farmer to plough the alleys or furrows in three days at farthest after the manure is out, to prevent evaporation of its juices, should he use a machine of the kind to expedite the work of his own garden, as one hour's performance of that sort would save the labourer several days toil.

That it ought to be imperative on the farmer to abide by the regulations of the value of the ground made by the Tithe Commissioners of the Parish, who were paid each

30s. per day, and such parish as have not entered into this composition, to be valued by two discreet farmers of the parish, chosen by a majority of the parties interested, who should be paid 5s. per day each for their trouble, to be levied at Vestry or Assizes; and in case any dispute arose afterwards between the farmer and the tenant, with respect to the nature or quantity of land or manure, to have reference to them, and their decision to be conclusive, as they will be on oath to do justice, and to allow each 2s. 6d. on every occasion they may be called on; which is to be paid or borne by the defaulter; and in the event of the demise of one or both of those persons, to have others elected in their place or removable for dereliction of duty.

That any two intelligent persons would value a parish of 10,000 acres in 15 days, being £7 10s. and so on in proportion for a larger or smaller parish.

That good land may be impoverished and bad land brought to a state of perfection in the course of time, it may be necessary to take down a general valuation every ten years.

That it is the interest of the farmer more than the workman to manure the potato garden properly, as he cannot expect a rotation of crops unless it be the case.

That the Irish cottier or peasant feels it a stigma if one of his family implore charity of any kind, and would not suffer his aged father or mother, infirm brother and sister, &c. to beg, if he had wherewithal to support them, and particularly if prevented to solicit it beyond the precincts of the parish wherein he or she may claim a settlement, which would expose the matter the more by not being allowed to go to a strange parish, and would not be the case if he had a sufficiency of potatoes.

That it would be of the greatest importance to the farmer and the state, to till gardens early, whereby he can have the land clear timely to sow the wheat crop which generally succeeds the potato, and it may be seen from the writings of the late Colonel Richard Aldworth of Newmarket, County of Cork, (a practical farmer and a patriot) that the wheat should be sown the first fortnight in October, but it could not be counted late if put in any time this month, and if delayed later, there is seldom any good produce or quality, the land being too cold, and nature in a dormant state, and the seed congealed in frozen clods that destroy its vegeta-

tion, which blasts the hope of the husbandman and affects the commonwealth, and would cause the dearth of provisions and famine.

That the peasant, when he gets forward in the world, is as unfeeling as any farmer could be, and as avaricious as a Jew, in exacting treble the present price for any commodity he may have for sale on time, and particularly any thing in the provision line to his neighbours—it is not unfrequent to see notes passed for potatoes, when sold for 5s. per barrel, cash, or market price, so high as 10s. and in some instances 12s. for six months credit; it may be said that unless some lucky event occurs, a poor man in Ireland will ever be so, whereas a person in middling circumstances can never get reduced, unless utter neglect to business, or intemperance—a vice to which they are frequently addicted, when they charge double or treble, in some cases, for any thing sold on time; and the cow and seed corn, &c. are equally overrated on the poor man who holds a few acres, or resides near a common.

That the workman was paid the present wages of 6d. per day and coarse fare, or 8d. without it, and 4d. a day to a woman at field or out door work with this kind of diet, or 6d. without it, and 1s. 6d. a day to the artizan and better diet, or 2s. without it—forty years ago, when the rent of his cottage and garden was cheaper than heretofore stated and classed, and from the extraordinary prices of Agricultural produce since, owing to a protracted war, the farmer has overrated them and made no advance in the wages.

That late ploughing and tillage of potato gardens in this country, is the cause of all the calamity of those classes, whereas the farmer never bestows a thought on until his own is finished, and yet he generally too late, and also having all those qualities of Garden under one price.

That as the farmer has no guarantee of the workman but his labour to atone for the house and garden, and knowing that the most assiduous man, cannot serve more than 240 days in the year, (exclusive of Sundays and holidays, bad weather in winter, and several days tilling his garden and securing the turf,) not allowing for sickness to which the labourer is incident, which at 6d. ¶ day is £6 ¶ annum, and when the cot is rated so high as £2 or £3, he can expect but a small share of garden for the balance, at the rate of £6 or £8 the acre.

That the conduct of landlords in general towards the farmers, is very unfeeling and reprehensible, but the latter are merciless oppressors of the grades under them, and should be grappled with by a wise legislature, to stem the torrent of human misery, by passing a law to correct those abuses, as it is impossible such a state of things could be suffered to exist any longer, which would lighten the burthen by one fourth or one fifth of the workmen, and thereby remit upwards of £100,000 yearly to these classes throughout this Island, and yet be no check on the energy of the farmers, or any just grounds of complaint, as they wantonly lavish treble this sum by weddings, christenings, wakes and funerals, &c. &c.

That the farmer loses more by the continuance of this nefarious system, than the reduction that would be made at this rate to two or three Cottiers he may have, by giving relief to the myriads of beggars hourly at his door, if he or his family have any pity on them, and all those from other parishes and counties, not wishing through shame to beg of their neighbours, and suffering all the privations that cold and hunger can inflict.

That it would avail nothing if only one family in a hamlet or townland went begging, but when every family are mendicants, how dreadful is the scene.

That the curse of the labourer and family has overtaken the farmer, who ruled them with an iron hand; who is the cause by his exorbitant charges on the cot and garden, which from the scantiness of the latter, and lateness of its tillage, has not food of that esculent, (the potato) until Christmas, nor yet that same worth digging, or fit to be used by swine, much less by Christians, which from their softness and unwholesomeness, keep contagion in the country.

That the soot dropping in the cabins without a chimney, gives the occupiers a tropical complexion if not inward diseases, by smoke and suffocation, to the most hospitable race of people on earth, and the most grateful for any favour conferred on them, and as dutiful withal, in consequence of which, they are in a state of melancholy and despondency, and do not give their minds to work, for which they are not fairly remunerated.

That if all those families were honestly dealt with by the farmers, in their respective districts, Irish paupers would

disappear, and would be the most wise and effective substitute, and the only plan that would serve this country, and not poor laws.

That these are not war times with farmers to treat those poor workmen with such harshness, as in such times it was frequent to get from £3 to £4 q^{r} cwt. for the pig, which at present rates so low as from 25s. to 30s. q^{r} cwt., which is the chief means of clothing the poor man's family and paying for milk, should any of them aspire to such luxury; and from the call for men then in the navy, the line, the militia, and the civil department, the farmer had to look out for men, and pay them from 10s. to 13s. q^{r} week and their diet, and still continues to charge the labourer as high now as then for the cot and garden.

That the object of the Tithe composition or Modus Act is defeated, so far as it was intended to give the workman the tithe of his garden at a reasonable rate, for which he was charged from 10s. to 12s. q^{r} acre, according to the old proctor system, which on the present scale would average from 2s. to 2s. 6d. q^{r} acre, of which the farmer took advantage, since the passing of that law, by charging 20s. in most instances q^{r} acre in addition to the rent, in order to evade the law.

That it is not unfrequent with the farmer to have new potatoes in June, before the tillage of the workman's garden is finished, which compels him to face a dear market until the middle of September, before he can get them even tolerable in his own garden, and that at a season of the year, when it is well known provisions of every description rate trebly dearer than at any other time.

That light as the concession of 30s. or 40s. in the rent of the house and garden to the workman may appear by the proposed plan, which from the increase thereby to his garden, and timely tillage thereof, would derive a five-fold advantage.

That the manufacturing and commercial classes in cities and towns would have their shares in the benefit of removing those abuses, inasmuch as every peasant would have a sufficiency of potatoes, and many could spare some for the market, which was not the case hitherto, but the cottier going for six months in the year at least, to rival them in the provision mart, which rendered them all a prey to the rapacious monopoly of the speculator or

forestaller, as it is the price of potatoes that regulates the value of flour and meal, &c.

That it is the firm conviction of petitioners, this scheme if in operation, is self-sufficient to allay all the discontented spirit prevailing in the country.

That from the rectitude of this our cause, every loyal and well disposed farmer concurs in the measure, and will affix his name to the petition.

That any honorable and philanthropic member of the Imperial Parliament, who may be instrumental in the passing of this statute, will deserve better of mankind and do more essential good, than all that political economists ever can arrive at, and will raise a monument more lasting to his memory, than those already erected in honor of the heroes who distinguished themselves in the service of their country by sea and land.

Long's Hotel, London, Feb. 10, 1831.

Dear Sir,

I have received and am perusing with great interest the paper you sent me a few days since, entitled "heads of a petition in favour of the introduction of Poor laws into Ireland."

I very much regret that I had not sooner known that this was a subject to which you had turned so much of your attention, as I should have taken the opportunity, when lately in Ireland, to have called upon you, and explained to yourself and the parishioners, the provisions of a bill for the support of the poor, which it is the intention of Mr. O'BRIEN (Member for Ennis) in conjunction with myself, to introduce to the consideration of Parliament in a very few days. In order, however, that you may the better understand our plan, I will request SIR WILLIAM HOMAN to forward you two or three Copies of a Pamphlet I left with Sir William, purposely for distribution; and, in the meantime, that is to say, as soon as our bill shall have been printed, I will transmit you a copy of it.

I need not add, that I shall feel greatly flattered at being selected to present your petition to the House of Commons, whenever you shall be prepared to forward it to me for that purpose.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

HENRY VILLIERS STUART.

To Mr. James Connery.

PETITION.

To the Honourable, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled:—

The humble Petition of the undersigned loyal Farmers and other Inhabitants of the barony of Coshmore and Coshbride in the county of Waterford, a great part of whom are Labourers and Artizans connected with Agriculture or Husbandry:—

SHEWETH,

That your Petitioners beg leave to approach your Honourable House, on the vital and important subject of the amelioration of the condition of the two latter classes.

Year after year have your Petitioners patiently waited in expectation of better times, but in vain; and as long as a shade of hope remained, they forbore trespassing on the valuable time of your Honourable House, but they witness the distressed situation of themselves and families, which is daily becoming more alarming and general, owing to high Rents charged for Cottages and Potato Gardens, not commensurate with the present rate of wages; and moreover, no attention paid to the repairs of those Mansions, and the Gardens not being tilled in due season, nor manured in a husbandlike manner, notwithstanding the extraordinary value in useful labour given in exchange for them; together with charging double, and in some instances treble the price of the day for any article in the provision line sold on time—such as Potatoes, Meal, Flour, Corn, &c., which is the *source of all the ills the Irish Peasant is Heir to*, and the principal cause of famine and pauperism in the country.

That the Resolutions adopted by Petitioners at a former Meeting, forwarded by *James Connery* to Henry Villiers Stuart, Esq. may be submitted to the serious consideration of your Honourable House, who is requested to present this Petition, and William Smyth O'Brien, Esq. to assist in the support of its Prayer.

That your Petitioners (the Farmers) in unison with the two latter classes, presume not to dictate to your Honourable House, as to the remedy best to be adopted, but beg with due deference to remind your Honourable House, that as this is not a Petition to increase taxation on the public, but simply concessions, that one class of Society are willing to make unto the grades under them, which will bless the giver, and be the means of comfort and happiness to the receiver, sooner than risk the introduction of any compulsory assessment for the relief of the poor, which could not be equally efficient or satisfactory at either side, to cure the evils complained of. Hoping that your Honourable House in its wisdom will sanction it, as a general measure for the peace and prosperity of Ireland.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

| Labourers, | | | Artizans, | | Farmers. | Acres. |
|------------|---|---|-----------|----|----------|--------|
| A | B | C | D | E. | F. | 300 |
| | | | | G. | H. | 100 |

Here follow several hundred names of each class.

Flower-hill, March 4, 1831.

Sir,

I have read the Petition you have sent me to peruse, got up by the Farmers and other classes of this barony.

I have known all those who signed it, and consider them very intelligent persons of their rank; and from the conversation I had with them on the subject, they are very zealous for the measure.

I have also reason to know, that the lower classes are in great distress every year, for the want of Potatoes in the Spring and Summer seasons, which is principally to be attributed to the causes pointed out in your petition. I should have no objection to sign it but that I think it will have a better effect to emanate from the Farmers and the grades under them, unaccompanied by the signatures of more influential persons. That part of the petition, which prays for the suppression of usury and the enforcement of cleanliness would be attended with very beneficial results.

I remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

BARRY DREW.

To Mr. James Connery.

Long's Hotel, London, March 15, 1831.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Petition of your barony, and to acquaint you also, that Mr. O'Brien, owing to the precedence which is given to Government business, has again been prevented bringing forward his motion, for the second reading of the poor's bill; and in consequence of a summons which he has received to set out for Ireland, the discussion upon this question will not take place for some time to come: this I regret very particularly, as I had a very strong wish to have taken an early opportunity of delivering my sentiments upon it. Under these circumstances I have thought it best to hold back the petition until it can be presented upon some occasion, when the subject to which it refers is before the House of Commons; in the mean time I am sure you will give me credit for an anxious desire to better the condition of the lower classes of the Irish community, which, in my opinion, is only to be effected thro' the agency of the higher classes, and it is to this point that Mr. O'Brien's bill tends, and such are the grounds on which I am so desirous of seeing it succeed.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Very faithfully your's,

HENRY VILLIERS STUART.

To Mr. James Connery.

CHAPTER II.

REGULATIONS FOR THE LIBERTIES OF CITIES AND TOWNS
CORPORATE, AND PROVING THE ADVANTAGES OF
THE TRUCKING SYSTEM.

It is vain to expect peace or contentment in Ireland, until the cottier's house and potato garden are made tantamount to his wages, or allowed hire adequate to those charges. - And as the foregoing regulations were not calculated to extend to the Liberties of Cities and Towns Corporate, where the rent of Land and Houses is far dearer than the Districts beyond those limits; and as the Farmers are in the habit of giving higher wages to balance these enormous prices in some degree, I have adduced the following scale to regulate the hire, viz:—

| | | | |
|---|-----|--------------------------|------------|
| When the rent of the cottage is over 40s. and not exceeding 50s. | | | |
| and the best quality of Garden, including the rent of the land and manure, is over £6 and not exceeding £7 per statute acre, and decreasing in proportion the inferior qualities, the labourer's daily wages should be..... | | | |
| | | | 10d. |
| When the Cottage does not exceed 60s. and the garden not exceeding £8..... | | | |
| | | | 11 |
| When | do. | is not over 70s. and do. | £9.....1 0 |
| When | do. | is not over 80s. and do. | 10.....1 1 |
| When | do. | is not over 90s. and do. | 11.....1 2 |
| When | do. | is not over £5 and do. | 12.....1 4 |
| And the Artizan's daily wages should vary in like manner, from 2s.....to..... | | | |
| | | | 2 8 |

Some wrong-headed men condemn this trucking plan, which is a real blessing to the cottier and his family, who, if paid 20s. per week in cash, would squander all, and should have to pawn his effects to support the calls of nature, until the next pay day.—There are not very many persons among the working classes who imitate the Ant or the Bee.

This bartering scheme is fraught with advantage to both parties, whereas, the workman will have more potatoes in his garden than he could generally purchase for double its rent, which he can requite by his labour, the cash being too apt to slip through his fingers; and, moreover, his children would early acquire habits of industry, in tilling, weeding, and digging the potatoes, while the father should be at his post with the farmer, who could lay out work before and after hours for them, which would brace their

sinews, and fit them for the task they would have to undergo in their riper years; and if suffered to grow up idle and disorderly in their youth, they never can be brought to bend their neck to the yoke after, or become good members of society; and on the other hand, the farmer will find it more convenient to give those compensations to the workman, than by calling on him weekly for money, which is not at all times in his pocket.

“A Rolling Stone gathers no Moss.”

Never did I see a more striking instance of this old adage, than in an occurrence that happened to a labourer of mine in 1820, a man of family, who held a house and potato garden from me—wages 8d. per day; he was, strictly speaking, a handy man, and despised so low a hire, and said he was sure of earning double and treble that wages on some occasions, and would travel for employment.

I remonstrated with him to relinquish such absurd ideas, and stop at home with his wife and children, as he had a snug house, with a store of potatoes sufficient to pass over the summer, and owed no debt, for aught I knew; but he replied, I only studied my own interest, and would keep him for ever in poverty.

I got his brother, who also lived under me as a labourer, to advise him to remain at home, but all to no purpose: he left his family in the beginning of May, and went to the County of Tipperary, where he got work from the farmers, tilling their gardens until the latter end of June, when the mowing season commenced, at which he earned 2s. 4^d day and his diet; and it is seldom a good workman need be idle, the mowing having continued, between the artificial and natural grasses, from Midsummer until Michaelmas. That being over he betook himself to thatching, at which he was also very clever, and earned 1s. 6d. per day, and his diet; he did not forget to frequent Clonmel and the other towns next to hand, on Sundays and Holidays, where he was sure to meet his mates and some of his neighbours, who were on the ramble like himself, and being addicted to liquor, was sure to spend the whole day at the ale-house, and generally worshipped “Saint Monday” like the Sabbath, which caused him to neglect his poor wife and children, and sent them but very scanty remittances from time to time, not adequate to their support, which obliged her to

go beg in August, when her store was out, having tilled no garden, locking the house and taking the key, expecting her husband would bring up his losses, and return to it again—in which she was disappointed—and it is seldom a bad habit is got rid of.

In short, this man did not keep a house ever since, and I was forced to have recourse to Civil Bill Ejectment at the July Sessions following, before I could get possession of the house.

The brother who remained at home, tilled a good garden—chiefly done by his little boys—while his wife and female children were engaged at spinning, &c.; and by pure dint of day-labour, frugality, and foresight, was able to purchase a cow to give milk, and a collop of sheep to yield wool, the source of employment and comfort to the family—and, what is done by one is possible to another.

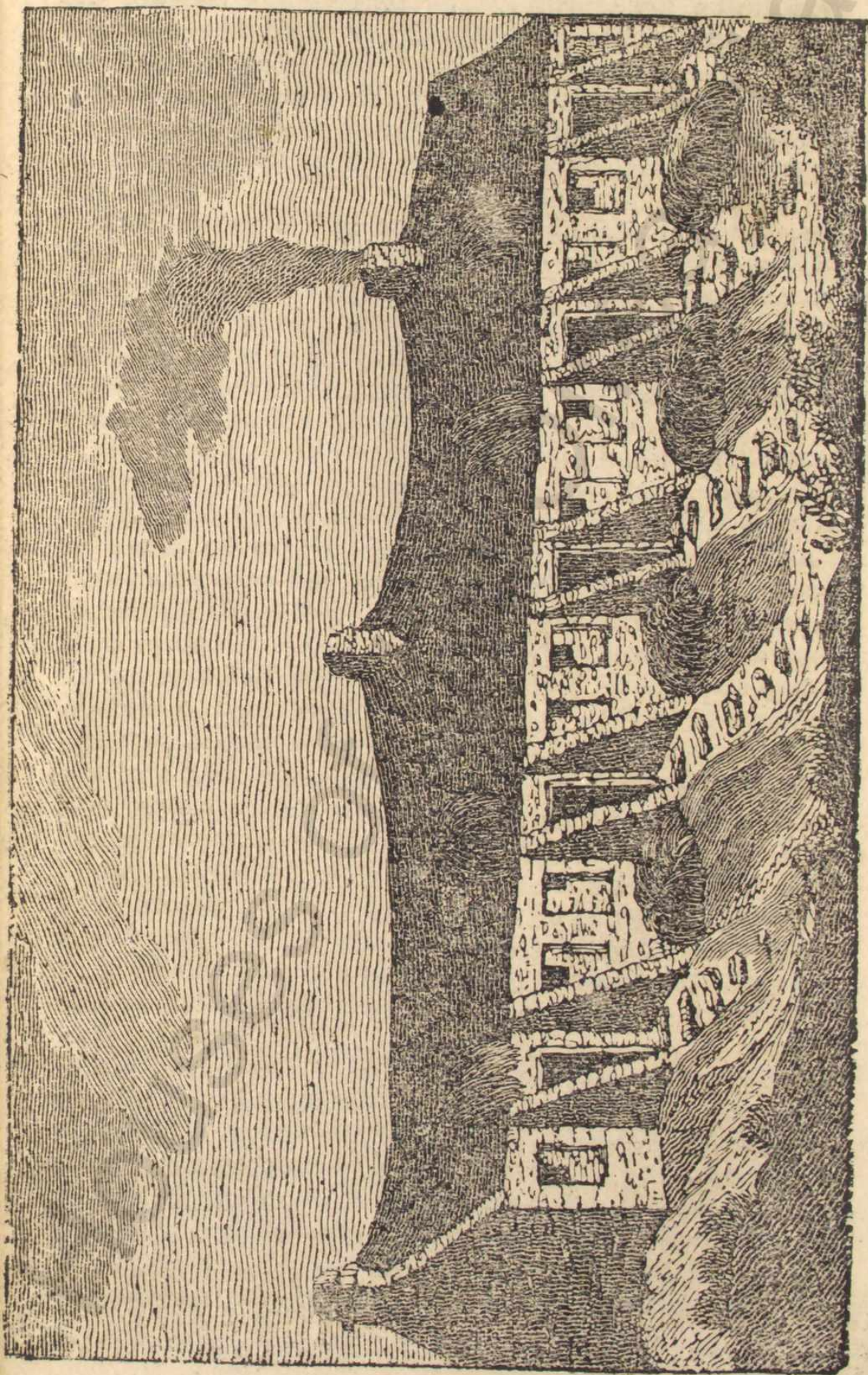
On my way from Cork to Middleton, in the latter end of September, 1831, I met several labouring men engaged at work by the side of the road, not quite four miles from that city, who were sheltering themselves by a hedge from a heavy shower of rain, and finding it necessary on my part to take the like refuge, I naturally asked them the name of their employer, rate of wages, and what they were charged for cottages and potato gardens:—they told me he was a Mr. M—n, a gentlemanfarmer, in very opulent circumstances, and charged them 40s. for their dwellings, and at the rate of £10 per acre for the garden, and allowed but 10d. per day to liquidate those charges, though he had let the best part of the field at £9 the acre to others, who were to pay at certain gales in money, not considering that their labour was as valuable to him as cash, which was a pretty general practice with farmers, and a bad precedent in the country, and the more unpardonable in a man of independent rank, who had no need to resort to such severity.

The rain began to fall in torrents, and it became advisable to run to their houses, which were very convenient, to which I accompanied them, and there beheld five ruinous slated tenements, without a foot of ground attached to any of them, for a kitchen garden, (though no cottage should exist without a garden,) with which a trowel was never used inside or outside, connected in a range situated on an inclined plain, with several buttresses

TO EACH IN THE NAME OF

Houses of the Oireachtas

TO FACE PAGE 21.



built at either side of each door-way to support the front wall ready to tumble down; I ventured into one of them, which, from the small aperture in the wall in imitation of a window contracted from the original design, for the want of a sash or shutter, and commonly stuffed with a wisp of hay or straw, together with the door being overshadowed by these buttments, contributed to cast a gloom inside; the floor was all in ruts, and the pig lying down in a sleeping posture, and the roof afforded but little shelter more than the hedge, as some of the slates had fallen therefrom, and leaking at every pore, the absence of which was attempted to be supplied by potato stalks and rushes, and water oozing through the chinks of the rere wall, which was built up against a bank of earth surcharged with moisture; and there is no mansion so uncomfortable as a slate house when in a neglected state, but nothing could equal their anxiety to make down a fire to cheer the stranger whom they never saw before, which they at length effected by cutting a bundle of wet briars and bushes on a wooden block with a spade, (this block appeared to be almost worn out in the service, and seemed to be an heirloom in the family for many generations) which was fanned into a flame, by sacrificing the besom that soon made a kindling from the latent sparks raked out of the ashes.

According to the foregoing regulations, the labourer subject to these charges would be entitled to 1s. 1d. per day, being 3d. extra, which would amount only to £3 in the year's end, as 1d. per day is a pound per annum, conformable to the number of days he can work, as laid down in one of the resolutions in the preceding chapter; this sum of £3 would enable the poor cottier to purchase fuel and other necessities, situated as he is in the absence of a turbary, and on the brink of the most trading harbour in the kingdom.

I have said thus much, to obtain for the peasant a comfortable house and a sufficiency of potatoes,* believing it to be the first step towards his comfort, and hope the day will soon arrive when he will acquire a taste for better things, and can drink his own beer, and eat more substantial food in the harvest field, which is the case in every country—Ireland alone excepted.

* An Irishman, on hearing the great reduction in the potato market, swore a great oath, that nothing on this blessed earth gave him more pleasure than the downfall of his best friend.

The reader will not take it amiss to introduce the following vision of Terence O'Toole.

"Two gates the house of sleep adorn,
One of polished ivory, the other of transp'rent horn,
Thro' this of transp'rent horn true visions rise,
And that of polished ivory pass deluding lies."

"Nothing can be sweeter than new potatoes and milk for supper, provided one does not indulge too freely. This error I committed one evening not long ago, and the consequence was a dyspeptic fit, which my wife mistaking for incipient cholera, sent off to a medical hall for that infallible draft which its cunning leech has compounded for our good citizens, and which, if it has not cured well, has at least well filled his pockets, and that was enough for him. The draft had on my naturally sound stomach, no bad effect; the opium it contained communicated that dreamy, sensitive drowsiness, which, whilst it makes the body torpid, sets the mind at work, and calls up a host of confused ideal associations and broken images. And as a muddy conviction existed in my deranged sensorium that *Potatoes* had brought me to the state I was in, there arose before me a sort of potato vision, and methought I sat in a courthouse, and a legal investigation was going on, relative to the merits and demerits of the potato family. And at the bar stood the representative of the race, awaiting the result—his face was a *red-nosed kidney*,—his arms were *Wicklow bangers*—his breast was a *Judy Brown's fancy*—his stomach was a *cup*—his nether parts were *barbarous wonders*—his legs were *long Cork reds*—and his feet *Connaught lumpers*. As he held up his hand to plead not guilty, I perceived a new sort called *long fingers*, and some one whispered to me that the variety which formed his cranium was much given to the *curl*.

The trial had begun—and a bull-necked burly *bragadorio* sort of counsel, whose name was COBBETT, led the case for the prosecution. "My Lord, and gentlemen of the Jury," he proceeded, "there never came before you a greater culprit than the prisoner at the bar. He has done incalculable mischief, and has raised and supported a miserable population, who depend on him alone for subsistence, and who, should he fail them, have nothing else to look to—they must have potatoes or perish. By his pernicious influence, a brave manly people have been brought down to

the lowest level of mere existence. At one time he copiously supplied them with food, and encouraged extravagance and waste—at another he has disappointed their hopes, and sent famine through the land, and caused shrieks of despair to be heard on every side, and disease has cried ‘havoc, and let slip the dogs of war!’ Gentlemen of the Jury, let me tell you that the people who subsist on this detestable root are standing on the last rung of the ladder of human life, below which they cannot go, unless some other foreigner can succeed in persuading them to quit the potato, and live on pig nuts, or extract nourishment from the sea-weed that covers the ocean rocks. Sir Walter Raleigh found this abominable root—this vile batata—amongst the savages of Guiana, who were in the habit of making up for the uncertainty of its produce, in the seasons of its failure, by eating the fat and slimy earth found along the banks of the great river Orinooko. It would have been well for Ireland, had this dangerous speculator kept his batatas to himself—it would have been well had he never touched upon her shores, and still better had he never put the Guiana root in Irish earth—or seeing he was determined on an experiment, it would have been well had the grim and fire-eating captain of *good* Queen Bess given something to balance the evils of the uncertainty of the potato produce—and failing that, it would have been a glorious circumstance for the three kingdoms had he lost his head before he introduced among us his abominable tobacco and detestable potato.*

“Gentlemen of the Jury—there was a time ‘ere Ireland’s

* Tobacco was first brought into repute in England by Sir Walter Raleigh.—By the caution he took in smoking it privately, he did not intend it should be copied.—But sitting one day in deep meditation, with a pipe in his mouth, he inadvertantly called to the man to bring him a Tankard of Beer.—The fellow coming into the Room threw all the liquor into his master’s face, and running down stairs bawled out, Fire! help! Sir Walter has studied until his head is on fire and the smoak burst out of his mouth and nose.

“Raleigh, alike for arms and arts renowned,
First brought the social herb on British ground,
The plant he lov’d and cherish’d, soon became,
A sharer in his fortunes, and his fame,
Both were pursued with envy’s counter-blast,
Yet both, in spite of envy, long shall last,
His fame, to Britain sacred as her own,
His plant, a jewel of the British crown.”

woes began,' when potatoes were unknown—that *root* of all her miseries—when the people fed on beef and mutton like myself, and looked as fair, and fat and stout as *I* do—when no poor dwarfish, sallow-skinned spalpeens were to be seen—and when the enemies of the country, if they happened to gain an advantage in any slight skirmish, used to be astonished, in stripping the slain, on finding bodies so plump and fair. *We English* look with pity, not unmingled with contempt, on your *potatofied* people—and though doubtless they are sometimes as good at *handling the stalk* as in eating the root, can you compare your children of this ground apple to the sons of bread, beer, and cheese? Now, I am well aware that the counsel for the defence will reply that the use of the potato enables Ireland to be a great exporting country. But this is an argument for needy and greedy landlords. It may be well for *them* that eight millions of people, by living on potatoes, can export eight millions of produce—but it is only such degraded countries as Poland and Ireland that export corn while the cultivators of the soil live on the vile garbage of roots. China does not export—Holland does not export—France does not export—and yet Ireland exports! Now, gentlemen, compare an English labourer's expenditure with an Irishman's. The one eats bread, bacon, and cheese—drinks beer, tea and coffee—uses sugar, malt, and sundry exciseable commodities—wears things and consumes things that employ the manufacturers, and pay the taxes of the nation—and thus farmers and manufacturers mutually do well, and find a ready market at their own doors. But a native of Ireland, living on potatoes, and using half a stone each day, worth perhaps but a penny, and a halfpenny worth of buttermilk, and making use but of the produce of a pig and a few poultry for the supply of his wretched raiment, using scarcely any manufactured commodity, and consuming nothing taxable but whiskey—why, if the Englishman's income and expenditure may be represented by £30, the Irishman's may safely be set down at £4—and Ireland, instead of increasing in wealth, is sinking in poverty, and steeped in crime—and all owing to that rascally, lazy culprit at the bar, who has made Ireland a lazy land, Irishmen a lazy people, and prevented the country from being what it might have been—the most prosperous country under the face of the sun! I hope, gentlemen, that your ver-

dict this day will have the effect of sending Mister Potato beyond the seas for the term of his natural life; and that Irishmen, in his absence, will learn to eat some of their own corn, taste a little of their own bacon, brew their own beer, make their own candles, and cut up their own pigs; and then will they be 'what they ought to be,' have a shilling in their pocket, and a rasher on their gridiron all the year round."

Having said this, and a great deal more, in a broad, bold, vulgar, but infinitely more perspicuous style than I can pretend to, he sat down; and then up rose counsellor Mealy O'Murphy, who, with broad grinning humour in his countenance, and with the confident air and address of one who had been thrice dipt in the Shannon, and had licked the blarney stone, replied as follows:—

"My Lord and gentlemen of the Jury,—the only word of truth which the counsel opposite spoke this blessed day was when he said we could *handle the stock* as well as eat the root. I was going to say he spoke like an Englishman—but I must make no national reflections, and just say this much, that he spoke like a man who thought that every blessing of life lay in swilling beer, bolting bacon, baking bread, and chewing cheese. Now, gentlemen, I am not ashamed to avow myself a lover and an eater of potatoes; and I am sure all who hear me to day will admit that a bellyful is a bellyful all the world over; and I, for one, would sooner have my stomach charged with good mealy potatoes and cooling buttermilk than with all the stale bread and parings of old cheese that were ever cut in an English village. No people on the earth are more happy and contented than the Hindoos, and they live strictly on vegetable food; and the people of Ireland love their potatoes, and are happy and contented with them. It is not the potato that is the *root* of their misery, as my learned brother, with little logic and less wit, averred—no! the celebrated agriculturist, Arthur Young, coinciding with the well-known Irish carol—

"The sweetest diversion that's under the sun
Is to sit by the fire till the *Praties* are done—"

expatiates with pleasure on the comforts of sitting by a blazing turf fire, and stripping the jackets of a potful of potatoes previous to *pouching* them; and potatoes seasoned

with an egg, or a herring, and washed down with milk, are not to be sneezed at by any beer and bacon devourer in Great Britain. What! compare a feast of genuine, white, mealy *Irish* potatoes and buttermilk, with a slice of stale bread cut from a well watched loaf, and eaten with a piece of hard indigestible cheese, and sent down with a draft of druggist's beer—such an absurdity!

“Gentlemen of the Jury—the potato never did harm in Ireland. My client is not indeed accountable for all the bastards and impostors who have assumed his name—the people of London never see a *rare* potato—let them come to Dublin and we will give them a taste, not of trashy poisonous roots, but of round, lumping, dry, and wholesome *apples*, that would bring a cockney's heart to his mouth. Yes! give my countrymen fair play, and they'll never part the potato—Let the Government promote public works—let the landlords invest capital—let manufactures be established, and employment be given—let all be done which ought to be done, and from every Irish cabin will the smoke be seen ascending just previous to the dinner hour, and if a stranger chose to enter, he would get *cead mile failte* to a share of a glorious rasher of bacon, and still more glorious potatoes; and on winter nights, when the storm is sweeping over the hills, and the rain pattering furiously against the door, how happy, how truly felicitous, to sit in a circle all round the fire, to hear the pot boiling, to see the beautiful roots bursting their coats, and shewing their fair faces, to hold the herring on the point of a fork till it fizzes into an eating condition, to see the milk poured out into all the jugs, and to see the happy faces, and listen to the loud laughter of the children—Oh! give me a winter night, a turf fire, a rasher of bacon, and a mealy potato!

“Now, gentlemen, it is a big lie that the Irish people are discontented with their potatoes. True, they want something along with them—and *potatoes and point* are very dry fare. But even with nothing but the potato, who for a moment would compare the moral habits, the female chastity, the conjugal fidelity, the mutual dependence, that exist in an Irish cabin, where scarcely any thing but potatoes are eaten, with the moral laxity that is engendered in the lofts of an English manufactory? Why, gentlemen, an Irishman, sooner than let his aged father or mother drag out the remainder of their days in a workhouse, would give, not

the *half*, but the *whole* of his last potato to keep them at his own fire-side.

“But, gentlemen, I am not arguing for the exclusive use of the potato. Let the people be employed, and they can afford to use Meat, Butter, &c., in addition—let landlords be kind and considerate, so that while they live they would let live—let rents be lowered—and I fearlessly assert that the day would (or should) be kept as a joyful anniversary in which the first potato was set in Irish soil. It is a root which has reared millions of sound men—men fit to fight the battles of their king and country over sea and land, and exalt the red cross flag of the British monarch in every clime and on every shore. Gentlemen, I cannot for a moment doubt but that you will give a verdict of acquittal for my client, who, as base insinuations have been thrown out respecting his arrival in our country, I beg leave to assure you is most anxious to inform you that his name is not derived from the Spanish word, *batata*, but was given to him in merry Ireland, and is thus declined—pot-eat-O’s—that is, what the O’s—the O’Murphy and the O’Toole eat out of—a Pot!”

Here the opium ceased to operate—my reverie was disturbed by the heavy breathings of my worthy wife, who was indeed rapidly approaching that trumpeting state called *a snore*; and trial, judge, jury, verdict, all vanished, “like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a wreck behind.”

CHAP. III.

REMARKS FOR AND AGAINST MR. O'BRIEN'S PLAN, FOR-
WARDED TO MR. STUART AND THE EARL
OF MOUNTCASHEL.

Doctor Doyle, Lord Carbery, Colonel O'Grady, Mr. Charles Brownlow, &c. from whom Mr. O'Brien gleaned his information, never plunged into the mansions of sorrow and pain, nor took the guage and dimensions of human misery, depression and contempt.

"They best can point at who have felt it most."

Compulsory relief in Ireland is neither admissible nor desirable; proper and timely culture of the potato gardens would prevent periodical returns of famine; and if the proposed petition were passed into law, all other collateral abuses would find their level.

The provisions of the Sub-letting Act were baneful to this country.

Colonization on an extensive scale, on mountains and waste lands, now tenanted by the Plover and Bittern, would be a salutary means of employment to the redundant population, who are able-bodied and willing to work; and from the third report of the Emigration Committee, Ireland contains 19,441,944 acres, 12,125,280 of which are cultivated, 4,900,000 uncultivated wastes capable of improvement, 2,416,644 unprofitable acres; hence it appears there are nearly 5,000,000 of acres in need of art, a large field for industry, and would amply repay the Government or any company vesting capital therein, by building cottages, and giving each family a cow or horse, and one or two years' sustenance (according to the nature of the land) and as many acres as they may have hands to cultivate it, as by that time they would be able to procure food from the soil, and could refund the principal and interest on a gradual scale, so as to have as good an effect as in Holland.

It is painful to be perpetually recurring to the *miseries* of Ireland: yet painful as it is, the subject must at times be adverted to. All classes and all creeds, both of religion and politics, have proposed their various remedies for the cure of the multiplied diseases which have afflicted a country so *really* capable of being rendered a fine and a fertile land—I do not intend to suggest any thing either

new or wonderful, but simply to bring before the attention of my readers what has been done on the Continent for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes.

A BENEVOLENT SOCIETY was established in Holland in the year 1818, with twenty thousand members, paying a penny a week. In Fredericks-Oord, the experiment was made with a success so delightful and complete, that the government and the inhabitants of Holland generally called for the extension of the scheme, and viewed it as one of the best methods of ameliorating the condition of the poor. Now a scheme may succeed in one country, and fail in another; and although the success of the Dutch Benevolent Society may well encourage the formation of a British one, the experiment ought to be made with caution and care. There is an establishment called Orbiston, (about twelve miles from Glasgow in Scotland,) which was founded somewhat upon Mr. Owen's plan; and whatever opinion may be entertained by the writer about the plans and principles of the New Lanark philanthropist, it was certainly a vexatious thing to see many thousand pounds actually wasted and thrown away, by neglect, mismanagement, and stupidity, and an opportunity lost of making an experiment on a large scale whether co-operation was or was not available by numbers of the labouring classes. The following account of the Poor Colonies of Holland is extracted from a book published by a member of the Highland Society of Scotland:

“The funds which the Society derives from contributions, gifts, and other sources, are employed solely and exclusively for the purpose of founding agricultural colonies, where the indigent are relieved from want, by means of their own labour; and where the young and ignorant are instructed and ultimately returned to that intercourse with the world, for which they had become unfit, in a condition to provide for their own wants, and to yield obedience to the laws.

“The rules of the Society were sanctioned by the king of Holland, and circulated by the government authorities; twenty thousand individuals became members at a penny a week; and an annual revenue was raised, for the first experiment, of 70,000 florins (12 florins make £1. sterling) and 26,000 yards of cloth.

“The Society being thus constituted, and its finances in

such a condition as to inspire the public with confidence in its operations, the manor of Westerbeck-Sloot was bought at the price of 56,000 florins. This estate, which the Society had chosen for their first experiment, is situated on the confines of the provinces of Drenth, Frise and Overysse, and at a short distance to the north-east of the small town of Steenwyk. The 600 morgen, (a morgen is about one and two-thirds of an English statute acre,) of which it consists, were, with the exception of 50 or 60, covered only with a stunted heather and mossy earth. A more unpromising subject for the labours of the agriculturist could scarcely have been selected; but the very bleakness and desolation of its surface, and the comparatively feeble powers of production which existed in its soil, were the reasons why these philanthropists of Holland resolved to select it for their first attempt. It was justly supposed that, if the experiment could succeed in such unfavourable circumstances, and under the unskilful superintendence connected with every commencement, no doubt could exist regarding the success which would attend the Society in all their other efforts.

"The 50 or 60 morgen already cultivated, were let to tenants; and 150 morgen of the waste and desert heath were set apart for the establishment of the first colony, which was called Fredericks-Oord, from the prince Frederick, who had so nobly undertaken to preside over their philanthropic exertions.

"After deepening the river Aa, and making such roads as were sufficient to connect this wilderness with the adjacent country, a warehouse, a school, two manufacturing halls, and 52 farm-houses, were erected for the reception of 52 families of destitute poor, who took possession on the 1st November, 1818."

The colonists were all required, on their arrival, to sign, and to promise to obey, various rules which were made for the regulation of the colony, but my limits forbid the transcribing of them. One excellent feature in them is the total abolition of religious distinctions.

"Let me now follow the colonist in his career as a farm-servant, and trace the progress by which the cultivation is effected. The land, hitherto subjected to the operations of the Society, consists of a surface of heath and moss-earth resting upon a substratum of sand. The moss varies from

six inches to twelve or fifteen feet in thickness, and occasionally presents the appearance of a bog.

“Where the sand is covered with a layer of moss of 10 or 12 inches thick, the first operation is to pare off the heath or coarse surface to the thickness of three or four inches. These turfs are laid in heaps, and the ground is dug to the depth of eighteen inches, and the sand and turf well mixed together. Three-fourths of the turf, which have been pared from the surface, are now slowly consumed by means of a moderate heat, and as much as possible without flame. The ashes are spread over the soil, immediately before the sowing of the seed, and are equally distributed over the surface, by means of a light harrow drawn by two men. The remaining fourth of the turf from the surface, is prepared as a compost, by mixing up the produce of a morgen of it with fifteen loads of fresh horse-dung, fifteen loads of cleanings of the roads, and twenty schepels of hot lime. These different ingredients are laid in beds, turned over after the second month, and so totally decomposed at the end of the third, as to form an excellent manure. All these operations are performed during the summer. In autumn the compost is laid upon the field, and the rye is sown in four different patches.

“Twenty-one hundred roods, or three morgen and a half are attached to each house. The first cultivation of these being finished, in the course of three years, as will be afterwards explained, and sown, say with rye, the following rotation has been frequently adopted, but cannot of course be laid down as a general rule in all circumstances.

FARM—FIRST YEAR.

| 100 Roods for Kitchen Garden. | House. | 100 Roods for early Potatoes. | |
|--|--|---|---|
| No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. |
| 400 Roods green cut rye, followed by barley sown down. | 400 Roods green cut rye, followed by spurry and tur- nips. | 400 Roods green cut rye, followed by po- tatoes. | 400 Roods reaped rye, fol- lowed by tur- nips. |

300 Roods for Fitorin;

FARM—SECOND YEAR.

| Garden. | House. | Early Potatoes. | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. |
| Clover, &c. cut for stall feeding, and hay. | Reaped rye followed by a green crop. | Green cut rye followed by barley sown down. | Potatoes. |
| 300 Roods for Fiorin. | | | |

FARM—THIRD YEAR.

| Garden. | House. | Early Potatoes. | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. |
| Reaped rye, followed by green crop. | Potatoes. | Clover, &c. cut for stall feeding, and hay. | Green cut rye, followed by barley sown down. |
| 300 Roods for Fiorin. | | | |

FARM—FOURTH YEAR.

| Garden. | House. | Early Potatoes. | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. |
| Potatoes. | Green cut rye, followed by barley sown down. | Reaped rye, followed by a green crop. | Clover, &c. cut for stall feeding, and hay. |
| 300 Roods for Fiorin. | | | |

“ Every year the colonist thus has a crop of potatoes on one lot ; of winter rye, green cut in Spring, and reaped barley on another lot ; of early ripe winter rye and turnips, spurry, or other green crop on a third lot ; of clover, hay, early potatoes, and kitchen vegetables on the fourth lot. No. 1, in the course of the four rotations, yields—1st year, green cut rye, and reaped barley ; 2d year, cut grass or hay ; 3d year, early reaped rye, and a green crop ; 4th year, potatoes, and afterwards sown with rye for the purpose of being cut green early next spring. The same description, with a slight variation, will apply to all the other divisions.

“ Every family receives two cows, which cost the Society at a maximum 150 *florins*. To replace this sum and loss from casualties, the family must pay 4 stivers a-week,

or 10 *florins per annum*, for the use of the two cows, and also a certain proportion of the price of the calves.

“Six horses, with the necessary waggons, were also kept by the Society; and the use of these was charged to the colonist at certain rates, and under certain regulations. They were never employed, however, except for the purpose of leading out the manure, and carrying home the crops and fuel.

“Extraordinary care was taken to collect abundance of manure; and the methods adopted for that purpose are well worthy the attention of even the most experienced agriculturist. Without a constant supply of this essential article, it is obvious that the productive powers of the soil, under the severe cropping requisite for the maintenance of the colonists, would be soon exhausted, and desolation speedily resume her old domain. The manure principally used in the colonies are composts, consisting of a mossy-turf, cow and sheep dung, and the refuse of the house.

“By these means, a family are enabled to procure for their three and a half morgen of land, sufficient manure to sustain the productiveness of the soil in full vigour. A large quantity of liquid manure is also prepared, and applied exclusively to the potato, clover, and floricin beds.

“In addition to the farm labourers of the colonist, it was the object of the Society to enable the young and the weak to earn their subsistence, by such kinds of work as are best adapted to their feeble and impaired powers. With this view, two houses were erected, where the preparing of flax and wool, spinning, knitting, &c. were taught. Colonists were also allowed to spin the flax, and knit the stockings, &c. at home; but these occupations were always kept in proper subordination to the principal object of the colonist's life: which is, to devote his powers to the cultivation of the soil.

“The total expense of settling a family, consisting of seven or eight individuals, amounts to 1700 *florins*; (upwards of £140,) and experience has shown, that the three and a half morgen, upon which seven or eight individuals are thus established, is not merely sufficient for their support, but enables them to accumulate considerable wealth. Three families, consisting of about twenty persons, are thus settled at an outlay, on the part of the society, of only 5100 *florins*; and the whole of that sum, and a great deal more,

is REPAID in the course of sixteen years. The cultivated land, houses, &c. then remain a clear and unincumbered property for the relief of the poor of future ages."

Having given these interesting extracts from the volume published in 1828, I ask, why might not such a Benevolent Society be established in Ireland? We have paupers enough, and waste land enough to make the experiment with; and when we see most frequently, land lying idle which might be reclaimed, even not far from Dublin 11,000 Acres reserved for the sports of the turf, the remark I say to those who have the money and the means, set some similar scheme afloat like the Poor Colonies of Holland.

The soil is sufficiently extensive to give employment, and susceptible to produce the necessaries of life to treble its population if managed with rigid economy; witness the great exports of every commodity, under all the present disadvantages.—Even the eggs they cannot afford to use, and are daily exported in crates to be consumed by the citizens of London, Bristol, &c. which marks the poverty and distress of the country.

Ye Statesmen say,

Are there not heaths and wastes and mountains vast,
And vallies of interminable length,
Through all your wide dominions, where the foot
Of man hath seldom trod? O thither send,
If too redundant population crowd
Your noisy streets, the surplusage of men!
Then shall you see delighted, o'er the wild,
Sweet cultivation smile, and Flora spread
Her Paradise of sweets, and Autumn wave
His golden harvest. Cities shall arise
Magnificent, amidst th' astonished waste,
And busy crowds shall bless you, as they raise
The public edifice, or temple vast,
Corinthian or Ionic. God himself,
From his empyreal realms of endless day,
Shall view the work approving. Go and learn
The moral lore! O teach your subjects love,
Beneficent and bland, and all the joys
Of social virtue and benevolence!
This is true glory, when the feeling heart,
Conscious of innate worth and motive pure,
Expands in gen'rous acts, and man delights,
With lib'ral hand to aid his fellow man,
And scatter joys along the paths of life.

What pleasure must it give to see these waste and wild scenes, these naked ditches, and miserable hovels exchanged

for fine plantations, rich meadows, well tilled fields, and neat dwellings; to see people well fed and well clad, instead of famished, ragged scarecrows, and those very persons tilling the fields that used to beg in the streets?

The following account of Lord Headly's estate and improvements, is extracted from a pamphlet by his agent, Mr. J. Wiggins, an English gentleman, entitled "Hints to Irish Landlords," &c. &c. published in 1822. "The estate of Glenbegh, or Glen of the Begh, or Birchen river, is situated at the entrance of the Ivera mountains, an extremely wild district on the shores of the bay of Castlemain, and on the extreme south-western coast of Ireland. It consists of about 15,000 acres, much of which is rocky, boggy, and mountain ground. Steep and rugged mountains surround the estate in the form of an amphitheatre, except towards the sea; along the shores of which a line of hills extends. Thus a sheltered vale is formed, through which the little river Begh takes the whole of its rapid course from its sources in the mountain lakes to the sea.

"This situation is romantic and picturesque, but its general aspect is wild and savage, and certainly, in the year 1807, presented as unpromising a subject for improvement as could well be imagined: and such was the character of the inhabitant for ferocity, that every character dreaded attack, and assumed a posture of defence as he made his way between the river and a flowing cliff, which overhangs it, then the only pass into the extensive districts to the west.

"The Glen was, at that time, supposed to be a safe retreat to every offender who fled from justice—for there all pursuit terminated. The inhabitants allowed no person to be conducted through it as a prisoner, and it was their boast that none were ever punished who had taken refuge in its fastnesses.

"They were looked upon by the rest of the country as savage, and treated as people amongst whom there was no security but in superior force. This feeling was far from being softened on those melancholy occasions when shipwrecks occurred on the coast, during which, nothing but an armed force could prevent every vestige of the property being plundered by those and the neighbouring people.—As to taxes, cesses, and other public dues, it may be imagined, that the people lived nearly free from those imposts,

for the king's hearth money was abandoned, because of the difficulty attending its collection, although the officers appointed to that duty were supported by troops.

"The habitations of these mountaineers were the lowest order of huts, scarcely affording room to the inmates, and quite inadequate to the purpose of shelter. The people were miserably cloathed and badly fed, the scanty potato-crop was often from necessity shared with the cows, who must have otherwise starved for want of other provisions. Murderous quarrels were not unfrequent, often arising out of partnership of tenancy, and that none of the usual evils might be wanted, letting by the customary mode of canting had created enormous disproportion between the rents and the value of the lands, some of these rents being absurdly high, and others ridiculously low. To these people the bare idea of labour was offensive, and work was considered as slavery. They were, however, a remarkably robust, active, and enterprising race of men, hospitable and obliging to those who asked their assistance or courtesy. Many of them possessed almost chivalrous ideas of courage, of ancestry, and of adventure, and exhibited symptoms of acuteness and intelligence, and a remarkable fondness for legal subtleties and historical tradition. Such were the people of that country, when Lord Headly, having recently come of age, for the first time visited this portion of the extensive family estate in Ireland. His lordship at once saw the deplorable state of those people, was chiefly owing to a long course of neglect, he resolved, therefore, to cultivate their good qualities without at first being very eager to punish their bad ones; these he wished to subdue by the progress of improvement, so that the culture of the people might keep pace with that of the soil; and he has succeeded in establishing within eighteen years, a degree of improvement and civilization, which, without those efforts must have required a century."

As a further illustration of the advantages resulting from the improvement of waste lands and roads, I would recommend the reader to look to the Reports of Mr. Griffith and Mr. James Weale, a principal officer in the department of Woods and Forests, descriptive of *Pubbul O'Keefe*, which signifies the land, or rather the congregation of the clan of O'Keefe.

This comparatively unknown district is situated on the

confines of the counties of Cork, Limerick, and Kerry, which was the scene of desolating warfare in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First—as the refuge of outlaws in the reigns of William the Third and Anne, and the very focus of the more recent insurrectionary movements of the last ten or fifteen years.

It is an extensive tract of country, comprehending upwards of 900 square miles, in many places very populous, yet containing but two small villages, possessing but two resident landed proprietors, the inhabitants were distinguished, as might be expected under such circumstances, by a more than ordinary degree of indolence, discontentedness, and turbulence; and their abodes being almost inaccessible for want of roads, crimes frequently escaped unpunished. During the disturbances of the Winter of 1821, and the Spring of 1822, this district was the asylum for Whiteboys, smugglers, and midnight marauders—stolen cattle were constantly driven into it from the surrounding flat and fertile country, as to a safe and impenetrable retreat.

A vast change has been effected in the state of this district and its inhabitants since the month of September, 1822, when new lines of road were laid out, under the direction of a man of distinguished talent and information, Mr. Griffith, the civil engineer, sent down for that purpose, and for the direction of other public works undertaken for the employment of the poor, in consequence of the scarcity which prevailed in the Summer of that year.

The progress of this important change he has thus described:—"At the commencement of the works the people flocked to them from all quarters, seeking employment at any rate which might be offered. Their general appearance bespoke extreme poverty; their looks were haggard, and their clothing wretched; they rarely possessed any instruments of husbandry beyond a very small ill-made spade, and as a consequence it followed that nearly the whole face of the country was unimproved and in a state of nature. But since the completion of the roads in 1829, rapid strides have been made towards cultivation and improvement; upwards of sixty new lime kilns were built for the purpose of burning lime for agriculture within the two preceding years; carts, ploughs and harrows, of superior construction, became common; new houses of a better

class were built in great numbers in the vicinity of the new roads, and also in the adjacent villages of Newmarket, Castle-island, and Abbeyfeale; new enclosures of mountain farms have been made in every direction; and this country, which, at no distant period, was the scene of lawless outrage, and one of the strongholds of what might be termed the rebel army, quickly became perfectly tranquil, and exhibited a scene of industry and exertion at once pleasing and remarkable. To the credit of the people be it told, that a large portion of the money received by them for labour on the roads was husbanded with care, and subsequently laid out in building substantial houses, and in the purchase of cattle and implements of Husbandry, and numerous examples might be adduced of poor labourers, possessing neither money, houses, nor lands, when first employed on the public roads, who, within a short period, were able to take farms, build houses, and stock their lands with cows and young cattle."

Some of Mr. Weale's concluding observations are so just and candid that I cannot avoid quoting his own words. "Looking at the present condition, and past habits of the people, it would be vain to expect that they could be quickly converted into a skilful tenantry, or that they could duly appreciate the comforts and conveniencies which it is desired that they should enjoy; if these advantages be prematurely conferred on them; time must be allowed for the growth of improved habits; and those will be most effectually excited by the steady encouragement which constant and productive employment affords, and will be best preserved by assuring to them a certain but limited tenure of their farms at such reasonable rents as will admit of a gradual accumulation of capital in their lands, if their means be duly husbanded.

Yet this is the peasantry that are daily, nay hourly stigmatized as lazy, indolent, and worthless—all whose poverty and moral degradation are to be ascribed to their utter want of industry! And by whom are these calumnies propagated? Can it be possible that it is by their own countrymen? Alas! for poor human nature, it is even so. But let an unprejudiced and enlightened Englishman travel through this unfortunate country, and see things with his own eyes, and what is the result of his candid and unprejudiced observation? Read it in the able report of Mr.

Weale to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. And where were his observations made? In a district known as the very centre of insurrection and rebellion. If these things be so, do they not convey an important lesson?

Emigration of the young and healthy swains, was never recommended by any wise minister, as,

“A bold paesantry their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied.”

England will find it her interest to foster the hardy peasantry of Ireland, the bulwark of the state, and the only nursery she has at present. Great Britain having dwindled into a community of artificers, her peasants have made the new world the land of their choice.

As there is nothing contemplated in the proposed plan, but succour to the feeble and infirm, relief to the blind, the lame, the diseased, the aged, the lunatic, the widow, the orphan or deserted child, who may be left destitute, (as to the lunatic, there is an asylum already to receive him, on the certificate of a Physician, and recommendation of a Subscriber.)

To accomplish this work of charity, I would suggest a power to be vested in the rector or other resident clergyman, and the parish priest of each parish, as both govern their flocks separately (which is not the case in England or Scotland,) who may be appointed Governors for the time being, to choose annually each, six skilful persons, from different parts of the parish, to form a committee of 12, to act as guardians or visiters for the year, who would appoint a Secretary or Treasurer, with whom the roll of the destitute poor of the parish is to remain, to which the Committee is at all times to have access, and would do away with sectarian difference, and cause charity to flow in its proper channel, and all fines for immoralities and misdemeanors, together with the collections at church and chapel doors, and other voluntary donations, to be paid into the Treasurer for distribution to those objects—each applicant to be certified for at least by three of the Committee, to prevent any misuse of the money, and to enable him to render a fair account of his trust at the year's end.

It is easy to find a respectable class of persons in each parish to undertake so laudable an office for one year gra-

tuitously, and should likewise be Conservators of the peace while in authority.

I would also offer another fertile source of revenue for the poor, I mean fines to be imposed on the cottier tenants and labourers, for having their houses, furniture, &c. in a filthy, slothful condition, with stagnant pools at their doors, peculiar to this country, which keep pestilence raging from year to year, that causes many a widow and orphan to be left destitute; and, in order to suppress such a national evil, the Committee of twelve should inspect the parish quarterly or monthly, as the case may be, when least expected, by six districts, having two to go together in each district, and take down the names and places of abode of those delinquents, with the nature of the complaint, and lay it before the Magistrates at Petit Sessions, who should be empowered to levy a mitigated fine, according to the circumstances of the defaulter, and increasing it if convicted of a second or third offence—to be handed over to the Treasurer, and dealt out to the poor as heretofore stated, for clothes, &c.

This plan would be of invaluable benefit to Ireland, as it would enforce habits of cleanliness, and they would feel more hurt at the exposure of the case, than any fine that may be exacted on this score, so there would be a general emulation for neatness, and would not be inferior to England in that particular in a very few years. Cleanliness will check disease, improve health and strength, and increase comfort.

I must observe in what I know of this country, that the cottier tenant is less regardful to cleanliness, strictly speaking, than the labourer, having the cow, horse, pigs, geese, &c. in his kitchen, all together, with a week's litter in the bargain, and a great many of them capable to afford their son or daughter from £50 to £60 marriage portion.

I concur with Dr. Doyle in his description of the wandering beggars, where he says, "they are of the most vicious character, and the more vicious they are the more effrontery they have; and the more they extort by that effrontery from the charitable and the humane; going about from parish to parish, vending all manner of lies, disseminating vice, and troubling the minds of the people with false prophecies and stories;" and he might have added, that a great many of them travel from place to place with

a crucifix or the effigy of saints, in order to draw the credulous into compliance, in which they often succeed, by getting wool, butter, flesh-meat, &c. add to this, threats of defamation and calumny, in case of obstinate refusal, to which the people reluctantly comply, rather than be objects of their vengeance.

The celebrated Doctor Berkeley, formerly Bishop of Cloyne, who wrote on the state of this country, in the year 1749, being 84 years back, and notwithstanding the exalted station he filled, made himself familiar with all ranks in society, and has delineated the condition of the Irish peasant better than any person who took up the pen before or since on the subject; and it is a lamentable fact that during the lapse of nearly a century, neither the legislature nor the landlord has made any apparent change for the better in his state; after all the improvements of the age, in the arts and sciences, and every other institution of the country, even the brute beasts are benefited by this change; the horse and the bullock can perform their work with greater ease, from the improved construction of their tackling, vehicles, &c., and are better fed—while man, according to the just statement of Sir Richard Musgrave, Bart., lately in Parliament, at certain seasons must eat the rank weeds of the field to prolong his existence, which he bears with Christian fortitude and resignation, while those beasts are pampered in warm houses, with corn, potatoes, turnips, carrots, &c., which is as great luxury to those animals, as roast beef to the peasant. The dog kennel too, and the piggery, are built neat and commodious, and their inmates have no cause to bark or grunt; but the poor working slave's sweat must supply all these, without being allowed to participate in the fruits of his industry.—I cannot express this philanthropic Prelate's remarks more forcibly than in his own words:—

“The house of an Irish peasant is the cave of poverty; within you see a pot and a little straw; without, a heap of children tumbling on the dunghill.—Providence and nature have done their part for Ireland, and no country is better qualified to furnish the necessaries of life, and yet no people are worse provided. In vain is the earth fertile, and the climate benign, if human labour be wanting—Nature supplies the materials, which Art and Industry improve to the use of man, and it is the want of this industry that occasions all our other wants.—Idleness is the mother of hunger and the sister of theft, which hatcheth many vices; and figureth

a lion in the way, and is proof against all encouragement. And it may be said, in fact, we are the only people who starve in the midst of plenty.

"It is a shameful thing, and peculiar to this nation, to see lusty vagabonds strolling about the country, and begging without any pretence to beg—ask them why they do not labour to earn their own livelihood, they will tell you they want employment; offer to employ them, and they shall refuse your offer; or, if you get them to work one day, you may be sure not to see them the next.—I have known them decline even the slightest labour, that of hay-making, having at the same time neither clothes for their backs, nor food for their bellies.

"A sore leg is an estate to such a fellow, and this may be easily got, and continued with small trouble. Such is their laziness, that rather than work they will cherish a distemper.—This I know to be true, having seen more than one instance, wherein the second nature so far prevailed over the first, that sloth was preferred to health. To these beggars who make much of their sores and prolong their diseases, you cannot do a more thankless office than cure them, except it be to shave their beards, which conciliate a sort of reverence to that order of men.

"It is, indeed, a difficult task to reclaim such fellows from their slothful and brutal manner of life, to which they seem wedded with an attachment that no temporal motives can conquer.

"In every road the ragged ensigns of poverty are displayed; you often meet caravans of poor, whole families in a drove, without clothes to cover, or bread to feed them, both which might be easily procured by moderate labour. They are encouraged in this vagabond life, by the miserable hospitality they meet with in every cottage, whose inhabitants expect the same kind reception in their turn, when they become beggars themselves; beggary being the last refuge of these improvident creatures."

These are the drones that would hail Poor Laws.

That every person imploring charity should remain in the parish in which he may claim a settlement, which I would recommend according to the Scotch usage, (being three years' residence) and should have a certificate from the landlord or farmer under whom he immediately resided, and the clergyman of the parish to whose flock he may belong, under their hands and seals, and if found beyond the limits of said parish, to be subject to some specific confinement in the house of correction as vagrants.

The comparatively few mendicants at this rate in every Parish, would be considered more in the light of visitors than beggars, and would be treated by every Inhabitant almost as kindly as if one of the family—the Irish being very liberal in giving relief to real objects.

Notwithstanding all the reproach which has been poured

upon Ireland, *as a land of paupers*, there is no country under the sun, where the benevolent feelings of the heart are more spontaneously exercised. The very prayers with which the beggars too often *pester* the passenger on the street, have their origin in religious and moral obligation, though, alas, so often grievously abused and turned to improper purposes; and it may safely be said that no where in the world will an appeal to the charitable and humane meet a more ready response. An Irish gentleman, who resided many years in China, has furnished the following account of Chinese charity:—

“In China the exercise of the virtue which we call charity or philanthropy, is confined exclusively to the Emperor, who alone is represented as the fountain of all benevolence and kindness towards his subjects; and all his acts are considered as proceeding from his great love towards them. No such feeling is expected to exist in any other person: hence, if a boat be upset in the river, the bystanders will bargain with the sinking man for the price of the assistance necessary to rescue him from death, before they will throw a rope to his assistance, and will even let him perish if he will not agree to their terms. In such a country, the beggar would stand a bad chance of gaining a livelihood, did not the law arm him with a powerful and oftentimes an irresistible advocate, in the shape of two pieces of wood, bone, or slate, used like the Spanish castanets; the writer has often seen a mendicant so armed enter into a shop and rattle away; it was a competition between noise and endurance. The shopkeeper had no power to turn him out, nor yet was he obliged to relieve him. The mendicant spoke not—he rattled—and never failed to gain his object in the end—a small piece of money called a cash, and which is the only coin in China, and is in value about the two hundredth part of a shilling.”

Dr. Doyle's views would be frustrated, in having the landlord to pay $\frac{2}{4}$ ths and the occupier $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the Poor rates, as in a few years on the expiration of the lease, the former on re-letting, would take care to include the poor rates in addition to the rent one way or other, of which there are many instances in similar cases.

Domiciliary relief ought to be preferred, as 1s. to an indigent house or room-keeper will go as far as 3s. to the wanderer, who may spend it in whiskey.

Paupers may have the sanction of the charitable and humane to beg, though not a legal title.

The education of the orphan or deserted child should not be neglected, and be bound apprentice to some trade or calling.

It is absolutely necessary to have a Dispensary, and an

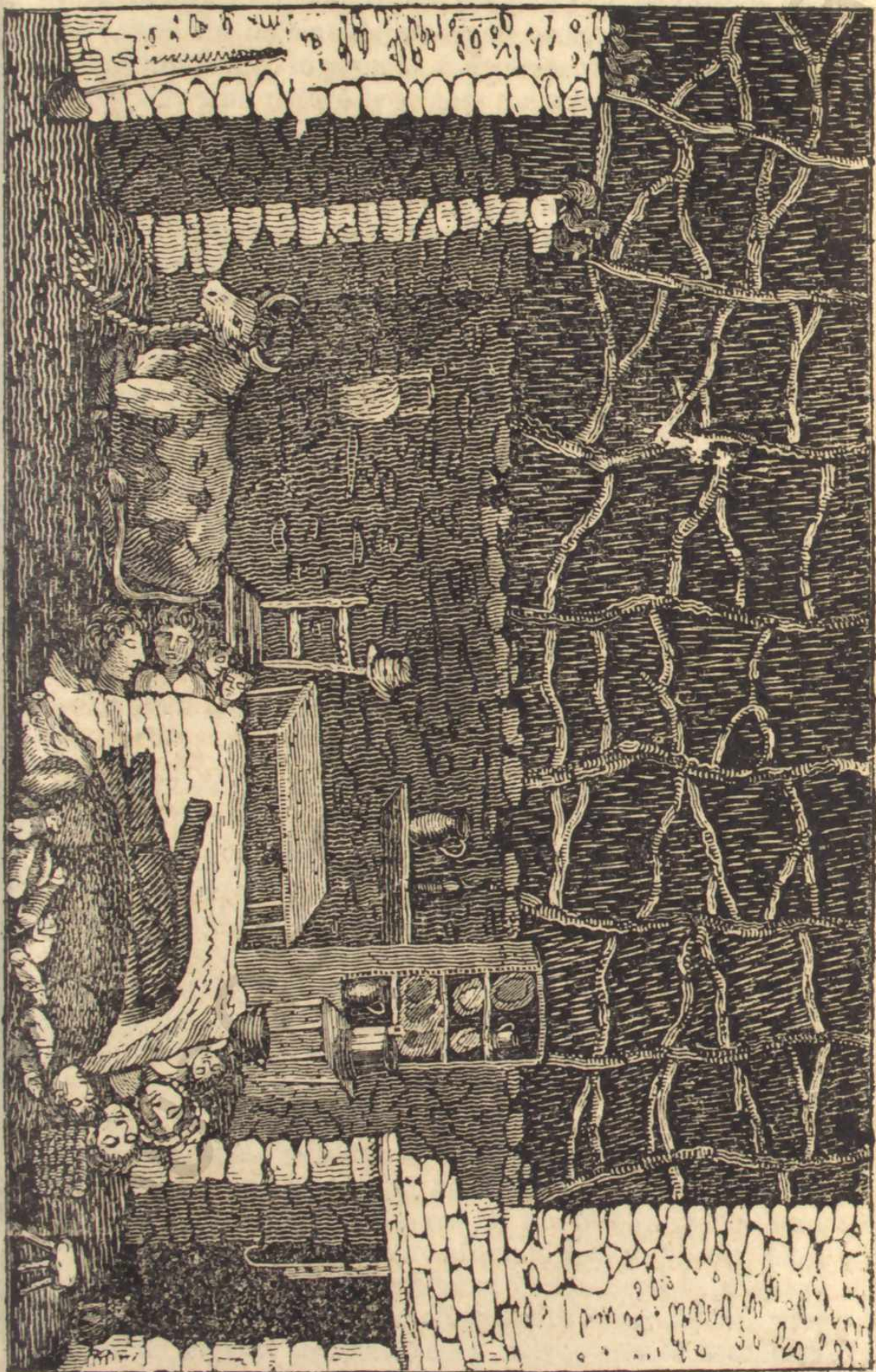
Hospital in each Parish, for the protection of human life, and prevention of the spread of contagion.

Having occasion to go to the house of a cottier tenant or small farmer who occupied about nine English acres of land adjoining the mountain, in my native parish (Lismore,) the end of March, 1830, between 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning, when the family were all asleep, and as the door was shattered and open in the joints, and no fastening to it but a spade that I observed to bear against it from the within-side, which I easily removed and gained admittance; and there I beheld the entire family, consisting of the man, wife, and 6 children, snoring in a bed of very coarse heath, on the cold ground, (if I be allowed the expression) before the fire-place in the kitchen, with the heads of half of them reversed, having but a very small share of covering, and the father who was a tall man about six feet, with his head projecting a few inches to the rear of his couch, beyond the rest, and his beloved cow though tied to a stake, was lying down equally contented, having her rump within a few inches of the man's head, as he lay on his back, and on my calling aloud, he started up with a large clod of the cow's excrement, in which his long bushy hair was entangled, who requested of me to stand outside the door while dressing, as he apprehended a vicious sow, that had a young litter of pigs close by his bed side, would make a rush, which might destroy me with her tusks, as she was in the habit of doing to all strangers, through ferocity in defence of her young.

I calmly asked him when he came outside the door to me, the reason of his suffering such a devouring animal so near his bed; he told me she was quite reconciled to himself and children; I then upbraided him for sleeping so near the fire-place, at the tail of his cow and so near his pigs; he replied, he could not help it, as the fleas ejected him some time before from the bed in which he usually lay, in a dungeon of a room he had.

It may not also be unnecessary to observe, that in the Summer of 1829, a farmer of this barony bought 50 or 60 barrels of oats on speculation, which he converted into meal, for which he charged 30s. per hundred to the distressed, on time, by being secured in the payment, (this corn he bought at 12s. 6d. the barrel, and returned a hun-

TO FACE PAGE 44.



TO FACE PAGE 14



dred of meal nett to each barrel,) one man in particular, whose family were famishing, accepted of the terms proposed, and the instant the payment became due, the creditor did not forget to process the surety for the sum contracted for, who naturally urged the man whom he bailed to satisfy the claimant; the poor man had no alternative but to sell his potatoes, though knowing he would be in need of them before long, (rather than lose the confidence of his friend, on whom he was sure to call on a similar occasion at a future day,) and the claimant by very great obligation, accepted of ten barrels of potatoes at 3s. per barrel, in lieu of 30s. for his cwt. of meal, which potatoes, I had known him to have sold shortly after to other needy creatures on credit, so high as 10s. per barrel; thus it appears that within the space of one year, what stood this man but 12s. 6d. in the beginning, by an unmerciful charge for credit amounted to £5.

☞ $1\frac{1}{3}$ barrel of good potatoes of 21 stone to the barrel, in point of food, is equal to 1cwt. of oatmeal, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. third quality flour.

CHAPTER IV.

CONTAINING MOST IMPORTANT HINTS TO LANDLORDS AND TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Having mentioned in the preface that "*Landlords ought to make remissions,*" and in one of the resolutions that "*the conduct of Landlords in general towards the farmers is very unfeeling and reprehensible,*" in proof whereof I am bound to make some observations.

And as *rack rents, want of Capital, grinding absentees, and leechy resident landed proprietors*, are the bane of this country; and to remedy those calamities, the Landlord should give the ground to the farmers on a fair valuation, at the estimation of two competent persons of the parish or barony, indifferently chosen by the landlord and tenant; and the qualification of these valuers should be stipulated by being working intelligent men, who occupy each at least a farm of 100 acres for the last ten years; and in case they disagreed in its value, to call in a third man of the same class, and Government or the Lord Lieutenant of the county to have the appointment of this umpire; who are also to suggest the permanent improvements necessary

to be made thereon, such as the building of a dwelling house or out offices, draining and reclaiming barren land, &c. And as the *Elective Franchise* is extended to *chattel* as well as *freehold* property, which makes both tenures equally respectable; and the Landlord to remit 20 or £30 per cent per annum of the rent to the tenant, to enable him to accomplish these improvements, if for a short term such as 21 years; and if for lives and years the tenant to be subject to half those expenses, having a longer time to reap the benefit. The abolition of tithes, &c. is no substantial relief to the farmer, when it is left in the power of the landlord to overburthen him with rackrent.

The generality of Irish landlords being subject to *mortgages* and family *incumbrances*, to one half the value of their properties, are very anxious of shewing a high *nominal* rental to their *creditors*, which they never realize, as they set up the land to public *auction*, and embrace the *highest bidder*, who holds it but a very few years, when he is compelled to make a precipitate retreat of it, removing his live stock, furniture, &c. before they would go to the *hammer*; leaving the ground impoverished, and the houses in a dilapidated state, and deeply in arrear besides, and very often keeping possession until evicted by a tedious and expensive course of law, so in place of the landlord getting over his difficulties, the sooner by his *suicide avarice*, he is ultimately deprived of all.

Any landlord not satisfied with the fair value of his ground, is an enemy to himself and to the state, whose motto should be

“Live and let live.”

It behoves an omnipotent lawgiver to reduce those *chimerical legacies and jointures* according to the exigency of the times, as the man who calculated when making his will, that war prices would always continue, and taxed his heir accordingly, without exception, could not be considered of sane mind.

The nation almost sinks under its agricultural distress; innumerable farms are abandoned by their tenants, many of whom have spent their entire property in improvements, which have thus made their industry instrumental to their ruin.—But much of this ruin arises from the covetousness of the great landed interests, many of whom have not con-

descended to listen to the just remonstrances of their tenants, and in not doing so, they become enemies to the peace and prosperity of the country, by retarding the employment of the labouring poor, and increasing the general miseries. Rents have been obtained in Ireland for land more than double, nay, treble the amount of the rents of land in England.

“A landlord of straw will break a tenant of steel.”

This is a true saying, and why not the former mediate between the farmer and his labourers, and make out bye-laws, independent of any legislative enactment, and enforce his prerogative, which is not the case, but manifesting the most hardened indifference to the matter, if a resident, or absenting himself for years, wasting in foreign countries what can be wrung from his harassed tenantry, not concerning himself how the peasantry on his estate are maltreated by the farmers, nor the latter by the agent, but he may be sure that a *great and just God* will hold him responsible for his listlessness and supineness, and must render a strict account of his *stewardship*. “Where much is given much is required.”

It is in the power of a landlord to have all grades under him virtuous and happy, without making any great sacrifice.

“Laws were not made to bind men of honour.”

There are some fostering landlords who watch over their tenants with a parent's care, such as Counsellor John Musgrave, and Stephen Moore, Esq. of the county Waterford, the Hon. Charles L. Tonson, Sir J. L. Cotter, Bart., Robert R. Aldworth, Robert Courtney, Robert Hedges Eyre, and Henry Braddle, Esqrs. of the county Cork, and John Waller Esq. of the county of Limerick, worthy of being imitated by many of the Irish Peers, while others grind them to dust; nothing can appear more anomalous than the inequalities in rents charged by different landlords, for similar qualities of land; what one would gladly let for 20s. per acre, another would insist on 30s., and many vexatious covenants besides, and be more coercive in their exaction.

Those landlords who take pains to have the farmers under them comfortably situated in good dwelling houses, out offices, and iron gates to their fields, &c. ought to go a step farther and extend some of these superfluities to the labourer, who works for all (according to the phrase), as he generally breathes in a mud cabin, or wigwam, without a chim-

ney, and its portal closed only by a withered faggot or hurdle, for a shift to ward off the "pelting and pitiless storm:"—

"Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms;
And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast,
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar,
But bind him to his native mountains more."

A supine landlord may be compared to the commander of a regiment who does not attend to the duties of his station, and allows the officers under him to defraud the men in every possible way, such as embezzling their pay, and the quarter-master to charge double and treble price for their necessaries; such a battalion cannot but be quite useless to the service, as long as the cause of mutiny and sedition is left unredressed in the ranks.

A great many landlords still hold up the old feudal covenants in their leases, under severe penalties, originally imposed on Saxon serfs, such as supplying a certain number of duty hogs at Christmas, cutting, saving and delivering a stated quantity of turf, poultry, men and horses, &c. &c. which Sir William Blackstone describes to be base service, the performance of which disheartens the tenant, inasmuch as he is to suspend his own operations when warned by the landlord's bailiff to make good those engagements on pain of distraining his effects, and having his fees to pay for blasting his credit in the country. It is frequent with him to be obliged to burn green furze, and all his wheaten straw, at unfavourable seasons, in consequence of being compelled to deliver what turf he could save to the landlord, a circumstance that materially injures his business, by lessening his dunghill, preventing him of thatching his house or out offices, and also of the comfort of eating his own bacon, or a cheerful fire to dress it, or even to sit down by at night after the fatigue of the day.

This slavish tenure is not confined to squires or demi-squires alone, they are still retained in higher circles, having seen about three months since, a lease from an Irish peer to a farmer, perfected in 1828, pregnant with those *Draconic* covenants, among which, the tenant was bound under a fine of £10 not to keep a mastiff or house dog, thereby depriving man of the most faithful companion Providence assigned him for his protection, from ferocious animals, such as his

bull, and save him from a watery grave, which, it is well known, this species of the canine race have often effected, when no other assistance was at hand, and acts his trusty centinel to make alarm at the approach of the midnight invader.

There could be no objection whatsoever to pay the landlord all his rent in kind, of the produce of the soil if he preferred it; but after he is over and above satisfied as to rent, those additional impositions are most frequently laid on without the tenant being aware of it at the time of perfecting the lease, though not in his proposal, nor mentioned when giving him possession, the landlord maintaining it as a custom of long standing on his estate, and will not sign the deed unless they be included, thereby reminding the tenant too late, to leave his farm unless he will submit to his terms, to which he reluctantly complies.

More tasty and industrious farmers have been made desolate for wearing good clothes, boots, or seen riding in a good saddle, than all who were persecuted for giving their suffrage contrary to the will of their landlords, disregarding of the moral passage in Pope:—

“Hath God, thou fool, worked solely for thy good?”

imagining that all the useful and comfortable things of the creation are to be exclusively enjoyed by themselves.

There was a law formerly in this country, making it penal on any person under the rank of a knight, to use plated stirrups, or bridle bits, and it may be beneficial to the farmers of the present day, if a law were framed by those envious and narrow-minded landlords, pointing out the habiliments, &c. they ought to wear, that they may not incur their displeasure by being their rivals in fashion.

Ah! little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround,
They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel riot, waste,
Ah! little think they, while they dance along,
How many feel, this very moment, death,
And all the sad variety of pain:
How many sink in the devouring flood,
Or more devouring flame! how many bleed,
By shameful variance between man and man;
How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms,
Shut from the common air, and common use
Of their own limbs; how many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery; sore pierced by wintry winds,

How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless poverty?

These indolent residents, as well as those absentee landlords, who squander the produce of their estates in foreign countries, leave their discontented peasantry goaded by a sense of their wrongs, to be combated by the Government at whose door they wrongfully affect to lay the blame, who reluctantly have recourse to *Whiteboy, Insurrection, and Peace-preservation* Acts, to restore order and tranquility in the country, which experience has demonstrated to be totally inefficient for such a purpose. And it is as impossible to suppress those ebullitions of public indignation as to extinguish the flames at the crater of Mount *Ætna* or *Vesuvius*, which, if subdued for any time, like these *Furnaces of Nature*, will create an inward burning in the bowels of the body politic, and end in an earthquake, such as Captain Right, White Boys, Hearts of Oak, John Doe, Caravats, Shanavests, Captain Rock, Terry Alt, &c. swallowing thousands of the human race in the *chasm*, until brought to a level surface by the *musket, sword, spear and gibbet*.

“The Irish peasant is
So weary with disasters, tugg’d with fortune,
That he would set his life on any chance,
To mend it or get rid on’t.”

Some landlords, from very powerful reasons, become disgusted at the conduct of middlemen, a description of persons, doubtless to be classed amongst the practical evils of Ireland; but in middlemen there are great shades of discrimination—those that take farms and re-let them without previous occupation, at rack-rents to a poor tenantry, often ruin them, and rob the inheritor of the fee of the value of the soil; this has frequently been the case, and those kind of middlemen have not been improperly called land sharks, or pirates. And in these, Ireland has abounded by the late fatal advance in land, which was quite unnatural, and which caused the hordes of semi-squires in the country, who became a multitude of upstart gentry, without manners or education, oppressive to the poor, and frequent instigators to riots and disturbance, bad substitutes for the natural protectors, who were absentees from their native soil—who do not comprehend that their whole figure, their political existence, is owing to certain vulgar prejudices in favour of birth, title, or fortune, which add nothing of real worth,

either to mind or body; and yet, cause the most worthless person to be respected.

Wealth, power and titles—pageants of a day,
 Ungrac'd with merit, shed a feeble ray.
 Soon sinks the fame not raised on true desert,
 And all the praise that lives not in the heart;
 Soon sinks the pride from ancestry that flows:—
 'The splendid villains are but public shows:
 Awhile they blaze, and catch the simple eye;
 Then melt in air like meteors in the sky.
 Not thus nobility with worth conjoin'd,
 Its lustre spreads, and leaves a track behind.
 The gifts of fortune, in a good man's power,
 Are but the needy wretch's certain dower;
 They raise the languid, wipe affliction's tear:
 To some give fame, in others they endear.

Those only are great and illustrious, who prove themselves so by their virtue, riches, and liberality, because the great man who is not liberal, is but a covetous beggar; for the possessor of riches is not happy in having, but in spending them, and not in spending merely according to his own inclination, but in knowing how to spend them properly.

A good man values riches only as the means of acquiring knowledge and extending charity; and to estimate power only as it would enable him to do good.

But many respectable gentlemen of family, character and property, have become middlemen in Ireland, from an anxiety to possess landed property, and to secure an interest in the soil for their families. Under this idea, they have taken farms, laid out considerable sums, and in many cases have acquired a handsome property, though not possessing the fee; so that from occupation, residence, industry, and money expended, they justly become participators in the actual revenues of the estate, to which they have as just, though secondary, a claim, as the head landlords.

It is to gentlemen of this description, that Ireland is principally indebted for the portion of civilization and improvement, though small, that she enjoys; they are consequently deserving of every countenance and encouragement the legislature, or great proprietors of estates can bestow. Without their exertions, Ireland to this day would be almost destitute of the station she holds amongst the nations of Europe.

By their industry they have employed thousands of the otherwise saving poor: by their residence, they know,

they feel, and they relieve their wants. Is it to the absent landlords, living amidst the luxuries and extravagance of the British metropolis, and the well-known comforts of Bath and Cheltenham, or the *capital of France or Italy*, that the poor Irish peasants can appeal in their distress? No; they are too remote—they neither know nor feel, and consequently they cannot relieve their wants. By their absence, they are perfectly incapable of forming a fair opinion of the situation of their estates, and their agents, in many instances, are too reluctant to intrude on their luxurious ease, by informing them of unpleasant truths. To many absentees applications have been made in vain by the humane, for relief to their suffering tenantry, many of whom are left dependent on the limited means of the resident gentry, for their actual existence.

“He who loves not his country loves nothing.”

The land mourneth through absenteeism: and to use the expression of a modern writer; “because the country is drained by remittances, she is widowed of her natural protectors; the loss is of money, manners, wealth, civilization, and peace.”

It is full time the present delusion should be removed from the minds of absentees. Visionary ideas of false grandeur cannot continue longer to blind them to their own immediate interests; for it is most evident, that the interest of their tenantry is identified with their own; and the poor Irish peasant is as necessary a creature to the Irish absentee, as the Negro slave to the West India planter.

Industry is the great means of establishing this desirable end; this can only be effectually forwarded by Parliament promoting the residence of gentlemen of landed property in Ireland, and by the landed proprietors leasing their estates on fair terms; not at rack-rents, and short leases, destructive of the best interests of the country. When the people are provided with employment and secure of enjoying its fruits, discontent and disorder will gradually subside, and the character of turbulent idleness will be exchanged for that of useful occupation.

Unfortunately the proprietors of the soil, in many instances have been too regardless, not only of their tenants' interest, but their own; which the best informed men have always held to be inseparable.

A due regard has not been lately paid, on the expiration of leases, by several proprietors of estates, to the merits of the occupying tenant ; though it is unquestionably true that the landlord has a right to choose his tenant, yet honour, humanity, and common justice, enjoin an attention to the interests of the old occupier.

There is a custom principally confined to the counties of Cork and Kerry, of borrowing money of the butter buyers of the City of Cork, where there are about 90 of those dealers, in the shape of middlemen, who sell again to the merchants, which causes two prices always in the market, termed currency and cant ; the latter is the highest, and given only to such as have not been previously pledged, and come unfettered to the market ; the latter is designated currency, which is always 10s. per hundred under the cant price, together with 6 per cent interest on the sum borrowed ; but the farmer gets two empty firkins and other donations in the bargain, to the amount of 4 or 5 shillings, which leaves a clear gain to the buyer of 5s. per cwt. constituting a profit, varying from 6 to 10 per cent. exclusive of the interest of the money advanced ; and the lower the price is, the greater the percentage ; the buyer always secures the same benefit, be the article high or low.

There are annually upwards of £50,000 lent to the farmers in the districts alluded to, by 12 or 15 of the most opulent and popular of this body, in Spring, in order to secure their custom for the year. The county of Limerick farmers have almost given over this practice as subversive of their well-being, whatever may be the consequence. This mercantile arrangement I consider out of my province, but I only mention it as a proof of the farmers labouring under high rents, they must have recourse to any shift that may prolong their existence, however disadvantageous. All this could be avoided if the landlord would indulge the tenant until Michaelmas, or 1st November, (the next gale day) for one half year's rent, which would save him from £12 to £16 per cent in the value of his butter.

I have been informed by an agent to one of the most respectable butter buyers of Cork, that the landlord leads his tenants (or rather his vassals) captive, for 50 or 60 miles from their homes to his office, in order to pass their notes for money, which must presently be handed over to him, thereout ; he returns one shilling to each at most to defray

their expences back. Such a landlord would count it a great hardship to be compelled to allow the tenant the loss sustained by interest and currency to support his credit. I cannot compare such a needy landlord to any other than a worthless horse, that cannot perform a journey by getting refreshment at the ordinary stages on the way, unless invigorated from exhaustion at shorter intervals.

It is to be wondered some honourable member, desirous for the welfare of his country, connected with these counties, who well knows this speculation carried on for many years, did not bring it to light before now, but it is very probable, he is as persevering to get his rack rents as another.

Having learned from unquestionable authority, a gentleman the native of the county Cavan and proprietor of several hundred acres in that county, who holds a high situation in the Excise department, and was stationed some time since at Skibbereen, who having formed an acquaintance with several of the landed proprietors of that neighbourhood, was asked by one landlord in particular to see his place, and on shewing him his house and out offices, he observed about 30 Butter Firkins all in the process of filling, which caused the stranger to ask the reason of so many firkins and none full, whereupon, he told him that his ground was let to small farmers, who kept but a few cows each, and to be the more secure in the payment of his rent he formed this plan of having each tenant send the butter after it was churned, to be packed in his respective cask, lest he or his family may consume any part thereof, or otherwise appropriate it to his use, and when full, the Landlord to send this butter to market, placing the amount to the Tenant's credit—this he effected through the means of a description of keepers hired for the purpose.

He likewise stated that all the rich valleys in his dear Cavan were occupied by protestants exclusively; while the catholics were forced to live in the highlands or mountainous districts, except when employed to work for the former, in the spring and autumn season; but since the depression of the times, that farmers could not pay the high rates, occasioned by war prices, after supporting themselves and their families decently, as they were always in the habit of doing, the landlords have been so hard hearted that the most of them emigrated, and those fertile plains are peopled in their stead by Catholics, who were only "hewers of wood

and drawers of water" to the Protestants before, from their frugality or rather austerity in retaining what they earned hard from the former occupiers; with which they tempted the covetous landlords, and promised rack rents besides, which none but those who were in the habit of mortifying their bodies internally and externally could pay. This my informant lamented and remonstrated with those landlords, for being the cause of forcing their old tenantry out of the country, who replied that from the miserable way the Catholics were contented to live, they could pay 10s. $\frac{1}{2}$ acre more than the protestants, who liked good things as much as themselves, and did not care a fig about the professors of any creed but those who could pay them the most money.

Had there been from 15 to 20 farmers in each parish in Ireland, interested in keeping the peace, few or no criminal offences would be committed, but the landlord enforcing high rents and other galling covenants, with whom the tenant remonstrates in vain, finding him inexorable, he naturally relates his hard case to his workmen, and his servant boys in particular, who generally sleep in his out offices, and by the sound of a horn at night, assemble all others of the same class in the neighbourhood, who break in the landlord's house, take away his life, or fire his premises, and maim his cattle, as an example for others; concluding—

"The vice that cannot be abash'd,
Must be either ridiculed or *shot*, (not lash'd.)"

The murder is published far and wide next day, and the perpetrators thereof known to hundreds, and notwithstanding large rewards being offered, it is one case out of twenty of which a clear proof is had, (or if had at all, the grand projector who is gainer by the transaction, escapes the rigour of the law) as the people consider an act of this kind, to be a full expiation of their sins, and are revered by the circle in which they are known ever after, for having executed so laudable a work, as getting rid of a tyrant. I need not say that these boys are allowed to sleep next day, and worthy of every indulgence from the farmer, and money to drink besides, on Sundays and holidays, for keeping up the *reign of terror* in the country, who from the heavy arrears he owed was on the brink of ruin, and in place of holding his farm by a *thread* before, he holds it after by a *cable*.

The destruction of life and property has become so familiar to the Irish in their excesses, as not to scruple to perpetrate the blackest and most wanton deeds, by which they verify the words of Juvenal:—

He who once sins, like him who slides on ice,
Goes swiftly down the slippery ways of vice,
'Tho' conscience cheeks him, yet, those rubs gone o'er,
He slides on smoothly and looks back no more.

I will be told that Ireland was not tranquil at any period, and that property therein is untenable, which prevents the English capitalist from settling here; but I will ask, were it not the jealousies and prejudices of her provincial kings which gave rise to civil wars and commotions, by their clans; after that, the tyranny of the feudal barons, and latterly, the nobility and gentry, retaining the essence of their predecessors, having one law for themselves, and another for the poor, under the semblance of justice, and connived at by the pernicious policy of England, which debased and demoralized the public mind, and kept the Irish in a state of barbarity, beneath any civilized people, and were the dupes of every adventurer, or designing person who promised to relieve them from their thralldom?

The passions of the mercurial, credulous, and unlettered peasantry, were always appealed to, by their bards and minstrels, who composed songs and airs to instil religious prejudices in their minds, from youth up, and to hold disaffection towards England and her Sovereign, who was neither more nor less than an usurper of the crown; assuring them year after year that the day of retribution was fast approaching, when a prince of the house of Bourbon, their legitimate monarch, would invade these realms, who would relieve all their wants, and could live in prosperity, and their progeny for ever after. I must not forget that the soothsayer too, by his prophecies and traditions which they believe as gospel, contributed in no small degree to confirm the delusion.

Admitting the ignorant and unfaithful portion of my countrymen, to have arrived at the climax of their wishes, and that a Spanish king held his court at Tara, is it not some Cardinals or Bishops from that country, who would hold the principal offices under him, or other intriguing characters, such as *Gondamor* (who premeditated the death of that great and good man, Sir Walter Raleigh, which has left a lasting stain on Britain) who would introduce the

Inquisition with all its horrors, of which the people would soon have sore cause to repent?

This was the prevalent belief of the Irish for centuries previous to the French Revolution, when *Buonaparte* became so formidable and ambitious as to awe the world, whom they expected to be their deliverer from bondage; but since he made his exit, they chiefly depend on agitation to obtain their rights, whereby they have succeeded in obtaining Reform, which could not be withheld in justice any longer; by the hostility of an expiring and intolerant faction, as they did to hasten the Catholic Relief Bill, which is a balm calculated partly to cure the national distemper, by amalgamating all classes in a bond of amity, which might have been granted with equal safety 30 years before. And now that Ireland's sons entertain every attachment to the person of his most Gracious Majesty, WILLIAM IV., and his Government, trusting that his Ministers will adopt Honesty and Charity for their Beacon, which experience has proved to be the best policy, by observing the old maxim, "better late than never," in doing justice to Ireland. It is to be hoped that England will no longer treat this island, possessing so many natural advantages, like a step-sister, or use her as an insignificant province or draw-farm, but afford equal assistance and protection to her agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial interests, and not monopolize all to herself. The claims of Irishmen cannot be rejected in fairness—Who pay more than their dividend of the finances and all other levies for the support of the state, and were foremost in the battles of Trafalgar, Waterloo, &c. &c. and would again, should a foe attempt the conquest of the Empire!

By adopting the system laid down in this work, the hitherto turbulent and riotous peasantry will venerate the laws, and become a grateful and contented people, consequently the extra constabulary force on the yeomanry may be safely dismissed, which are a weight on the nation, and will induce the absentee landlords to stop at home and be a restraint on their grinding and remorseless agents, and encourage trade and commerce, and see that the labourers are fairly dealt with by the farmers.—Then their affluent English neighbours will settle amongst them, and banish all former feuds and distrust, and cultivate mutual good feeling, so the offensive weapons of those useless legions,

may be converted into Ploughshares, Spades, and Sickles, and even the regular Army will admit of great retrenchment, as 10,000 or 12,000 effective Troops would man all the forts and Garrisons, and Ireland will rank among the Nations of the Earth, as Nature designed Her to be—A prosperous Country!

“When Lenity and Cruelty play for a kingdom,
The gentlest Gamester is the soonest Winner.”

Quære—Whose fault is it, if poor Ireland still continues poor?

The following Interrogatories were selected from a work of Bishop Berkeley's, which the author finds so illustrative of the cause he has advocated, considers them worthy of insertion in this publication:—

Whether a tax upon dirt would not be one way of encouraging industry?

Whether as industry produced good living, the number of hands and mouths would not be increased; and in proportion thereunto, whether there would not be every day more occasion for agriculture? And whether this article alone would not employ a world of people?

Whether such management would not equally provide for the magnificence of the rich, and the necessities of the poor?

Whether an expence in building and improvements doth not remain at home, pass to the heir, and adorn the public? And whether any of those things can be said of claret or gambling?

Whether fools do not make fashions and wise men follow them?

Whether for one who hurts his fortune by improvements, twenty do not ruin themselves by foreign luxury?

Whether in proportion as Ireland was improved and beautified by fine seats, the number of Absentees would not decrease?

Whether he who employs men in buildings and manufactures doth not put life in the country, and whether the neighbourhood around him be not observed to thrive?

Whether money circulated on the landlord's own lands, and among his own tenants, doth not return into his own pocket?

Whether every Squire that made his Domain swarm with busy hands, like a bee-hive or ant-hill, would not serve his own interest, as well as that of his country?

Whether a gentleman who hath seen a little of the world, and observed how men live elsewhere can contentedly sit down in a cold, damp, sordid habitation, in the midst of a bleak country inhabited by thieves and beggars?

Whether on the other hand, a handsome seat, amidst well-improved lands, fair villages, and a thriving neighbourhood, may not invite a man to dwell on his own estate, and quit the life of an insignificant saunterer about town, for that of an useful country gentleman.

From the well known celebrity of the Rev. HORATIO TOWNSEND, as a patriot and a scholar, who has long been conversant with the manners and customs of the Irish community, (of which there are many testimonials on record,) the author of this work feels it a duty he owes the public, to give circulation to his sentiments on the merits thereof; and particularly when he has his permission so to do.

Derry, Ross Carbery, January 6, 1832.

Sir,

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Pamphlet, of which the parcel contained five, but without any specific mention of where or how I am to address you, however, as Cork is the town, perhaps this letter may find you, or you may find it rather at the Post Office.

I concur generally with what you have laid down; and am well aware that the general poverty of our country, might be greatly alleviated if not removed altogether, by a more kind and considerate conduct of landlords towards tenants, and of farmers towards labourers. I have long seen it in the same light with you, and hope that as far as I am personally concerned, I have done something towards removing the evil. I fear however it is an evil which statutes will not and perhaps cannot remedy. Parliament will not probably like to interfere in the settling of rent, and the allotment of labourers' wages; they will think that this belongs to private dealing, with which Government should not meddle, and should find its remedy in the moral improvement of the parties. For my own part I shall be glad of any arrangement that may have a tendency to procure such happy results, without having recourse to poor rates, which I dislike and deprecate as much as yourself.

I remain, Sir, Your very humble Servant, &c.

HORATIO TOWNSEND.

To James Connery, Esq.

Derry, Ross Carbery, January 21, 1832.

Sir.

Yours of the 17th did not come to hand till this day, having been left at the Ross Post-office, I suppose by some messenger.

If you think the few lines I wrote to you worth publishing, you may certainly do so; though had I contemplated such a purpose, I should probably make my letter more worthy of it. However, if the letter does no good, it can do no harm. Looking at the operation of poor laws in England, and the bands they would be likely to fall into here, in most places, I certainly do not think this Country fit for them, further than the erection of Hospitals and Dispensaries.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant, &c.

HORATIO TOWNSEND.

To James Connery, Esq.

The following letters are selected from the very many, which have been addressed, unsolicited, to the author of this treatise, by Noblemen and Gentlemen of the first experience, in testimony of their high opinion of its utility in accomplishing all that is set forth in its title:—

Mallow, February 19, 1832.

Sir,

It would be happy for this unfortunate country, that some of its members made an exertion for its future welfare; and I hope your merits will meet the reward that such general information claims from the public.—At the same time beg you will accept my thanks for the compliment you pay me in your invaluable work.

Yours, &c. &c.

HENRY BRADDLE.

To James Connery, Esq.

Mitchelstown Castle, May 8, 1832.

Sir,

I have to thank you for the copy which you sent me of your treatise on the means best calculated to prevent pauperism in Ireland.

I have been too much engaged to peruse even a chapter of this little work with attention, but from a cursory examination of the contents of some of the pages, I am led to think that it contains much valuable information, which I hope will prove useful to those to whom it is addressed.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

KINGSBOROUGH.

To James Connery, Esq.

Mill-Bank, Fermoy, July 19, 1832.

Sir,

I beg to return you my best thanks for a copy of your valuable pamphlet—the “Reformer,” which I have perused with great attention. Many of the evils pointed out by you have long since attracted my notice, and as far as my own establishment enabled me to do so, I have done all in my power to remedy them.

The neglected state of the labouring classes of this country is beyond a doubt, one of the principal causes of the misery to which the distracted state of the peasantry is to be attributed, and this you have pointed out in the clearest manner. We have no right to expect either attachment or fidelity from men whose whole lives are spent in hopeless exertion in the service of an employer who feels no interest in their comforts, and provided they perform their tasks or work for less than life can be supported for, is regardless of all the duties which belong to a master.

Since the establishment of the Petty Sessions, many of these abuses have been corrected, and it is to this invaluable Court we can look for a still more effectual correction of the abuses belonging to this part of your observations. Having had the honor of

holding the Commission of the Peace for many years, I am convinced that much good may be effected by enlarging the powers of this Court in matters respecting adequate wages and good treatment of labourers. This seems to me the only legislative means of attaining this great end.

Although I confine myself to remarking on this part of your book, there are many other valuable observations in which I cordially agree. The necessity of any expensive code of Poor Laws would soon disappear, were the landlords and farmers compelled to act justly, but how to reach these abuses is the great difficulty.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

DAVID REID.

To James Connery, Esq. &c.

Limerick, Mallow-street, November 30, 1832.

Sir,

I have perused your work, and agree in opinion that the amelioration of the condition of the working peasant of this country, is the main-spring to all the tranquillity so desirable.

Your remarks on rack rents and low wages are just—they are the source of all our evils:—new-model that infernal machine, upon a liberal and wise policy, and all the attendant wheels will work usefully.

Absentees are a curse to this country, they are like the drones, they consume all the honey they never laboured for:—nay, they are worse, for the drone is likely to be caught and punished before he consumes all, but our National Drones return quarterly or half-yearly, and commence the destruction again.

Having land in the Liberty of this city for several years, a practical and working farmer on 50 plantation acres, I have done more good, and supported more poor, than my wealthy neighbours who possessed hundreds of acres.

From some experience and accurate observations, I know the labourer is averse to any thing in the way of charity:—give him employment and a fair recompense for his labour, and he is content.

Poor Laws will entail more poor; they would be a license to become poor, and should these laws be introduced into this country, any man in a parish will prefer the certainty of being supported, than run the chance of casual and uncertain employment with unrequited payment.

If the waste lands were portioned to the industrious poor for a certain time, rent free, with a loan from Government of £4 or £5 to each Family, to be re-paid in a given time, for the purpose of buildings, &c. what a national blessing would be conferred.

I am, Sir,

Your humble and devoted Servant.

SAMUEL EVANS.

To James Connery, Esq. &c.



IN THE PRESS,
AND SHORTLY WILL BE PUBLISHED,
THE REVISER:

CONTAINING MOST USEFUL SUGGESTIONS TO THE
LEGISLATURE, FOR SIMPLIFYING AND MAKING
EASY OF ACCESS THE COMMON LAW OF IRE-
LAND, WHICH, IN ITS PRESENT STATE,
IS VERY OPPRESSIVE TO THE POOR.

BY JAMES CONNERY,

Author of the Reformer, &c.

With patient care and wisdom-tempered zeal,
Ye sons of mercy ! yet resume the search,
Drag forth the legal monsters into light,
Wrench from their hands oppression's iron rod,
And bid the cruel feel the pains they give.
Much still untouch'd remains in this rank age,
Much is the patriot's weeding hand requir'd.
The tools of law (what dark insidious men
Have cumbrous added to perplex the truth,
And lengthen simple Justice into trade)
How glorious were the day that saw these broke !
And every man within the reach of right.—THOMSON.

CONTENTS.

- Chap. 1. On the Union.
———2. On the Constabulary and Arms Registry Acts.
———3. On Petit Sessions.
———4. On Manor Courts.
———5. On Quarter Sessions.
———6. On Assizes, Grand Jury Jobbing, and Turnpike Boards.
———7. On Tolls at Fairs and Markets, and Corporation dues.
———8. On the Game Laws.
———9. On the Fishery Laws.
———10. On the Usurpation of Mountain and Waste Lands.
———11. On Tithes, Glebe Lands, and Provision for the Clergy.
———12. On the Tediousness and expense of the High Courts of
Law, and particularly the Ecclesiastical Courts.
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THE
POLICY OF A POOR LAW
FOR
IRELAND,
ANALYTICALLY EXAMINED,

BY
WILLIAM STANLEY,

THE AUTHOR OF THE CLONCURRY PRIZE ESSAYS.

"No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable. * * * * *
"They who feed, clothe, and lodge, the whole body of the People, should have such a share of the produce of their own labour, as to be themselves well fed, clothed, and lodged."—*Adam Smith, Book I., Chap. 8.*

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